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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 16. WEEKLY EDITION. FEBRUARY 22, 1873.

1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL Daily and Weekly.

LEADING PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

As A PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST NEWS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known and appreciated. We expend annually many thousands of dollars to supply the wants of the public.

As a PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this respect.

As a PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby be best subserved.

As an INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its own party for its own good, believing that in free discussion and the independent expression of opinion only can our institutions be preserved.

As a BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ every agency it can command to meet the wants of the public. Now that the period of party excitement has been passed, it will pay special attention to topics interesting in the counting room, the banks and marts of trade, giving prominence to Science, Art, Invention, Agriculture and Manufactures.

As a PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it will give reading calculated to instruct, improve the reading taste and improve the mind.

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RAILWAY SMASH.

Collision of Trains on the Central Pacific.

Almost a Fearful Disaster.

CORINNE, February 13.—The following dispatch has been received from Elko, Nevada, dated to-day:

A collision occurred one mile west of Palisade Station at 6 30 last night, thirteen miles east of here, between the East bound passenger train that left San Francisco on the morning of the 11th, and a West bound freight train, the particulars of which are as follows: The passenger train was coming to a exceeding slowly around the curve, when the engineer saw the freight train coming at a furious speed. When the engineers first saw each other the trains were not four hundred feet apart. The engineer of the passenger train reversed his engine, put on the air brakes and jumped down the embankment into the river, followed by the firemen, just in time to save themselves. The break nearly stopped the passenger train before the engines struck, preventing the cars telescoping. The engineer of the freight whistled down breaks, and reversed his engine, but was too late. Both engines struck, leaped into the air and fell on the side of the track a mass of ruins. The following is a list of the wounded: Stone were killed; C. Ark, fireman freight train, head badly bruised and back badly injured, thought fatally; John Barley, breaman of freight train, head cut, face bruised, back injured; J. Porter, brakeman passenger train, face cut. Some of the passengers are slightly bruised, but none seriously. The cause of the collision is attributed to the carelessness of the train dispatcher at Carrin, who, it is reported, gave the freight train orders to run on the passenger train's time without giving the passenger train orders to wait.

TERRIBLE GAS EXPLOSION.

House Blown to Atoms and a Life Lost Through Inadvertence.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

OIL CITY, PA., February 14, 1873.

Last night at twelve o'clock, a terrible explosion occurred at Shaffer Run, about two miles from here, at a house owned by Frazier & Bowman. They had run gas pipes from their well to the house and were using gas in a cook stove. Bowman went to the house in the evening, turned on the gas and then went for a match to light it, but before getting the match, something occurred which attracted his attention, and forgetting that he had turned on the gas, concluded to retire without lighting a fire. About twelve o'clock he arose to go to his well. He lighted a lamp and came down stairs and had just reached the floor of the lower story when the gas communicated to his lamp, and an explosion took place, blowing out two sides of the building, the remaining falling. Bowman escaped the falling debris, but was terribly burned and bruised. His partner, Frazier, heard the explosion and rushed to the house, where he found Bowman with his clothing on fire. He extinguished the flames, burning himself severely. Bowman was conscious, but died in a few hours. Deceased was much respected by all, and leaves a wife and family, all of whom had gone to visit friends the day before. The sad catastrophe has cast a gloom over the entire community.

The Ohio Liquor Law Unconstitutional.

COLUMBUS, O., February 17.—Judge Greene of the Common Pleas Court for Franklin county, gave a decision to-day on the celebrated Adair liquor law. Some provisions he pronounced unconstitutional and void, and so limits the remainder that it would be difficult to obtain a verdict against a liquor seller.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

BASEMENT STABLES.

The *Ohio Farmer* of the 15th February says: Several correspondents ask the question whether or not we would construct a basement stable, if building a barn on such ground as is properly fitted for the same; and we reply that we would not, but would construct a vegetable cellar instead. Basement stables are objected to because they cannot generally be sufficiently ventilated. Second, because they are too warm in winter, and keep stock in that condition, which makes them very susceptible to cold when turned out; and changes of this kind are injurious. Third, the walls next the earth are moist, and make the stables damp and unhealthy; and, added to this, the poisonous air the animals confined there have breathed, makes an atmosphere destructive to the health and prosperity of live stock.

Fourth, the cattle, or part of them, rising, penetrate the feed above, to a greater or less extent and seriously damages it. It may be said that the same objection can be raised to the stable on the floor above; but this is not true, for in barns as usually constructed, there is a free circulation of air, but little dampness, and hence gases do not generate.

It has become a well known fact that the milk of cows partakes of the impurities of the air they breathe, and the food and water they take, so there is a matter of still greater importance than the condition of the animal, and that is the health of the household. Not only is milk affected, but the flesh of animals becomes unfit for human food, where subjected for a time to such poisonous atmospheres as fails of oxydize the blood.

If a stable can be so constructed as to be dry and well ventilated, then of course the above objections are overcome; but this is not an easy matter we should judge, as one has never fallen under our observation which was free from dampness during the short days of sunshine in winter. The editor of the *American Stock Journal* gives in his testimony relative to the matter in question in the following words:

"We have had frequent occasion to observe the effect on cattle of the removal from stables entirely above ground, to those in basements, and in every instance the result has proved satisfactory. The position above is sustained by facts. The growth and improvement in condition is impaired if not stopped. We have seen animals wear their old coat all summer until September, confined for the season of being tied in a basement stable for four weeks in spring."

HOW TO LEARN FARMING.

A "Young Man" would know how and where he can learn to be a farmer. Now, this question is one that is often presented to us, and in part it is one easily answered. Farming is an art which can be learned only by practice. A young man must learn to be a farmer with plow and harrow and manure-fork, mower, reaper, and constant hard work and close observation. He can not learn it in an office, nor in a study, nor by books, nor without all these. He may by plodding industry become a good laborer, but it must be by head-work, and studying what others have done, what it is possible for him to do, and the nature of the materials he works with, that he must become a true farmer. This is how; where, is not so easy to point out. In the most probable that a young man would learn most by hiring with a good farmer until he learns to handle tools and stock properly, and thoroughly understands the rotation of crops, and what it is little in what locality he works if he only secures an employer who knows his business, and carries on mixed farming in which stock and the dairy have a part. Such a one most young man needs only this, with study of good agricultural papers—and a small library of standard agricultural works of reference, to be able to succeed in farming, and to secure an abundant reward therein as in any other branch of industry fittingly entered upon and industriously followed. If it is not possible for him to do this, or desirable, he can then choose, and he will be his own teacher, let him procure a farm mostly in grass, stock it with a few sheep, cows and hogs and a pair of mares, and the first year raise only a small crop, with a few potatoes, and a field of oats or corn-fodder. In the mean time, he should go around amongst his neighbors and see what they do, and not be ashamed to ask for information. Also to show that he knows less than they, and thus learn his business from them, nor be disheartened by first failures, but persevere until success comes, as it will if he has the right notion of farming more difficult to learn than the driving of a nail in a proper manner, and a man that can learn this will be able to overcome that in full as many times.

IMPORTING PRIZE PIGS.

Our advice to a young farmer who contemplates importing some prize pigs from England says the *American Agriculturist*, is, *don't*. Buy the brothers and sisters of the prize pigs, if you like, but not those fed for exhibition. Sidney in his edition of Youatt on the Pig," says: "Large pigs are generally overfed, even at a breeding show, and are fed on everything that is good, including new milk, rum, apples, and London porter. A bottle of port-wine is sometimes used to restore tone to an exhausted boar after a long journey." This is English testimony. We would advise our young friend to buy pigs from some of our American breeders, rather than to send to England for them, as we have been importing pigs for many years at a great cost, and it is time we had as good pigs in this country as in England. If we have not, we should ascertain the cause of our failure. Until then, at the time, we have to keep on importing. We are only doing what has been done over and over again for half a century. If you import pigs, do not select fat pigs, one-half thought to be Canada; and agricultural societies require no pedigrees, and the prizes are more likely to be taken by cross-bred pigs than by those of an old and thoroughly established breed. The chief objections to the pigs we their success at the fairs to the pure blood. And this is what you want—not the prize pig themselves. It is time this matter was understood.

ROOTS AND OIL CAKE FOR SHEEP.

If growers of combing wools should raise sheep primarily to produce mutton; should attend to the breed, and kept their sheep well fed, and care for them generally; and should also try to mature them early, so as to sell the carcass—we should have wool from well fed, young healthy, strong, well bred, fat sheep, which is just the material for the best combing and delaine purposes. Farmers cannot keep these large sheep on lean pastures, with but care of them, and have good wool. The great reason for the combing wools imported when brought from England and Canada is that they do not get the same care and treatment they had in those countries, and are often kept on soil they are not adapted to, and are not fed sufficiently.

The wool from Leicester sheep that has been in the United States two years is generally harsher, leaner and less combing than it would have been if the sheep had stayed in Canada or England. Now, this will not always be so, for growers will yet learn that these large sheep need more by an than the small Merino, and their food should have some roots, mangel wurtzel and oil cake. When sheep are fed on corn, they are too hot and irritable, while a proper supply of roots and oil cake with other food would produce soft, sound and elastic wool.

KILLING WILLOWS

On swampy land there is sometimes a heavy growth of willow and the task of removing the bushes is one of no small magnitude. Some have a theory of cutting at certain periods of the moon changes, others while the sap is dormant, and still others the girding or stripping process. Of the latter method, which is attended with no small amount of labor, a writer in the *Rural Southern* says: Don't cut down the willows. If you do, you will see trouble for the next ten or twenty years with sprouts to be cut down five or six times a year. Let them stand until spring, and when they are in full bloom, cut a ring all around four feet from the ground, strip the bark down to the root, and let it alone. They will die, root and branch, in the course of the year, and never put forth a sprout. I have followed this plan for twenty years, and know it to be successful.

HIDES.

It will interest many farmers to learn how the dealers classify and describe hides and will, at least, enable them better to comprehend market reports of this commodity and often to form a more intelligent opinion of the value of the hides they sell from time to time. They are classified as follows:

"Green hides are those which are sent in just as they come from the animal, never having been salted.

"Part cured are hides that have been salted but are not thoroughly cured.

"Green salted are those that have been salted and are thoroughly cured. To cure a hide thoroughly will require from twelve to twenty days, according to the thickness of the hide and the temperature of the weather. The loss of weight from the green state is from twelve to twenty per cent.

"Dry flint is a thoroughly dry hide that has not been salted.

"Dry salted is a thoroughly dry hide, having been salted while green.

"In green salted hides and skins, those weighing less than eight pounds, are called deacons: eight to fifteen pounds, calf; fifteen to thirty-five pounds, if plump, kip, but if thin and poor, they are called runners, or murrains, and are sold at the price of *hides*; all above twenty-five pounds, are called hides.

"A green salted hide is understood to be thoroughly cured, free from salt, dirt, meat, grease, tail, bones and sinews, and before being weighed, all such substances are removed, or a proper deduction is made from the weight, and when the head skin hangs to the hide by a narrow strip, it is cut off before weighing.

"All bull, stag, tainted, cut, badly scarred, grubby (having more than four grub holes.—Ed.), or murrain hides are called damaged, and go at two-thirds price, unless they are classed by glue stock at a much lower price.

"A deduction of ten per cent. is made on all branded hides.

"In dry hides there are other kinds of damaged, such as moth-eaten, sun-burnt or weather-beaten.

"*It is generally conceded by farmers and hide dealers that over one third of the value of all the hides taken off is lost by careless skinning and curing.*

"As a large proportion of the hides received are green salted, the price that they bring, as a rule, is made the standard for the price of all other kinds."

PRACTICAL ADVICE TO TREE PLANTERS.

We have written of this item repeatedly but when again and again we find others touching our point, we cannot but note it, and here copy from a writer in *Colman's Rural World*.

"In setting your trees let the lowest limbs be placed on the south west side, and incline the tree nearly five degrees in that direction. By the time they attain their growth they will probably be inclined to the northeast. Make a mound around the trees of clay taken from the bottom of the hole. Let this be piled up about the tree during the winter, but remove it by corn planting time. I do not cut back until the buds are developed in the spring. I then run my finger down on the inside of each limb, rubbing off all the buds which would produce limbs in the center of the top of the tree. I then cut off half of each limb, at least half an inch above a bud pointing outward."

DISEASES OF HOGS.

The *Planter and Farmer* gives these recipes for the treatment of cholera, mange and worms in hogs: "There are but three diseases requiring treatment, which are mange, cholera and worms in the kidneys, commonly called breaking down in the loins. For mange, wash well with lye soap, and then pot liquor. For cholera, if I know the disease, as soon as you see the hog begin to droop and try to vomit, gag him, and give him twenty grains of calomel made into a pill. If you have been in the habit of giving your hogs spirits of turpentine at the rate of one tablespoonful to the hog, put in on corn, and you will rarely be troubled with this fatal disease. If the first dose of calomel does not relieve in twenty-four hours, repeat the dose. I rarely have to repeat it if administered in time. We sometimes see hogs dragging their hind legs, this is caused by worms in the kidneys, and may be easily cured by giving a tablespoonful of turpentine every morning for three or four days mixed with corn. Hogs which have been feeding on acorns are most subject to this disease, and should have the turpentine at least twice a week while feeding on this mast. Every hog feeder should keep a bottle of the spirits of turpentine, give it occasionally, and during the year, he will find it of great benefit to his hogs. I have practiced this for twenty years successfully. It seems to be a specific food for all hog diseases."

READING IN FARMERS' HOMES.

It is important to have a good supply of books and papers, and the latter, counting the cost and benefits, are best and cheapest. Never admit light and trashy reading to the fireside table, but in addition to the papers devoted to agriculture, others of a wider range should be obtained. Young people, and old ones as well, are greatly influenced by the company they keep, and good books and papers are the best of company. If boys are inclined to spend their evenings at the village, try what a fair number of well chosen periodicals will do in tempting them to remain at home, for it is pleasure they seek.

CASHMERE GOATS.

A stock raiser at Ventura, Cal., has a fine flock of Cashmere goats, of which a local journal says: "The patriarch of the tribe is a large, full-blooded fellow, with a fleece like a summer cloud. A specimen of it measures nearly seven inches in length, and in fineness of texture makes the work of the silkworm appear coarse in comparison. The owner says his flock is rapidly increasing, and thinks the hills of Southern California and its climate perfectly adapted to the nature of the animal. Beside the profit of breeding for wool, the mutton are much exceeds that of the sheep in juicy flavor as does its wool in fineness of staple. This stock requires much less care than sheep, and will live and thrive where the latter would starve. The expense and trouble of obtaining good bloods of this valuable animal is the only bar to its general introduction."

MOLASSES CANDY.

Two cups of molasses, one cup sugar, one tablespoonful vinegar, butter size of a hickory nut. Boil briskly twenty minutes, stirring all the time. When cool pull until white.

ROCK CREAM.

Boil a teacupful of the best rice till quite soft in new milk, sweeten with powdered white sugar, and pile it upon a dish, lay all over it lumps of jelly or preserved fruit of any kind. Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth, add a little sugar flavored with what you please. Add to this when very stiff about a tablespoonful of rich cream—drop over it rice, giving it the appearance of a rock of snow.

DEVILED TURKEY.

Take the legs of a turkey or large fowl, cut it all over to the bone, pepper and salt it well; then take mixed mustard, mix it with onethird its quantity of flour, and plaster the legs over with it, as thick as it will stick; when this is done put it on a gridiron over a clear fire; serve hot.

HOW TO BAKE AN APPLE.

To bake an apple perfectly can only be done by giving it time, keeping it under heat—already at that—for from four to six hours, depending upon the size and quality of the fruit. It acquires this length of time to reduce it to a fine pulp in the sweetness. The flavor is changed and improved, making, if the Spitzenburg or some other good fruit, one of the choicest and daintiest of dishes. The point in baking is to give all the juices of the fruit and the temperature of the weather. The loss of weight from the green state is from twelve to twenty per cent.

EXCELLENT FRIED CAKES.

One-half cup sweet cream; one-half cup of milk; one cup sugar; two eggs; one teaspoonful soda, one-half teaspoonful cream tartar; and teaspoonful cream tartar; fry quick.

ADELAIDE PUDDING.

Take six ounces of butter, six ounces of sifted sugar, and beat them together; then add one tablespoonful of ground rice, and the yokes of six eggs. This will make six puddings. Put apricot juice, the half of a large apricot (that has been preserved whole), at the bottom of the cups. Then fill the cups half full, bake for half an hour in a slow oven; at the end of which time the puddings will have risen to the top of the cups. Send them to table turned out of the cups, with the apricot at the top.

PRESERVING THE COLOR OF DRESSES.

The colors of merinos, mousselaine delaines chintzes, printed lawns etc., may be preserved by using water that is only milk warm; making a lather of white soap before you put in the dress instead of rubbing it on the material; and stirring into a first and second tub of water a large tablespoonful of ox gall. The gall can be obtained from the butcher, and a little of it should always be kept in every house. No colored articles should be allowed to remain long in the water. They must be washed fast and then rinsed through two cold waters. Into each rinsing water stir a teaspoonful of vinegar, which helps greatly to brighten the colors; and after rinsing hang them out immediately. When ironing dry (still a little damp) or bring them in; have everything collected, and iron them at once, as it injures the colors to allow them to remain damp too long or to sprinkle and roll them up in a covering for ironing next day. If dresses cannot conveniently ironed immediately, let them hang till they are quite dry; and then dampen and fold on the following day, a quarter of an hour before ironing. The best way is not to do colored dresses on the day of the general wash, but to give them a morning by themselves. They should only be undertaken in clear bright weather. If allowed to freeze, the colors will be irreparably injured. No colored article should ever be boiled or scalded at all. Some colors (especially pinks and light greens), though very stout, stand all well in washing, will change as soon as a warm iron is applied to them; the pink turning purplish and the green bluish. No colored article should be smoothed with a hot iron.

BOILED CORN FOR HOGS.

I experimented five years in fattening hogs, three with meal well scalded and cooked before feeding, the other two in feeding corn boiled. I shelled the corn from the cob, and boiled it slowly in a boiler and fed eight quarts per hog daily; keeping the boiler well covered all the time, so, as to save all the heat possible. The hogs that I fed with boiled corn fattened fully one fourth faster than with meal, and the pork was well packed with leaf lard and was solid and delicious enough for the most fastidious.

WASHING MADE EASY.

One of my neighbors has fattened his hogs for several years past on dry meal, giving two quarts to each hog three times a day, for drink he gives sour milk. He claims this to be the cheapest and best way. Certainly there are no better than he raises, for their age and no cleaner, handsomer pork.—*Cor. The People.*

TO MAKE SOFT SOAP WITH POTASH.

To cleanse the grease, put it to weak lye; keep it at a hot and gentle heat and boil it. When all pieces are eaten up, fill the kettle up with cold water; let it stand until cold, when the grease will rise to the top. Take off and prepare to make the soap. Twenty pounds of grease to thirteen pounds of potash are required to make a barrel of soap. Get the best part of the cake and dissolve it; strain the lye into the barrel. (There will be settlings in the best of potash; but keep it out of the barrel by straining the lye.) Melt the grease and strain into the barrel also, and thus avoid the filth so commonly found where one gets near the bottom of the barrel. With a stick in the barrel stir the grease well, say three or four times a day, thoroughly. It will thicken gradually, and make most beautiful soap. If made in cold weather the barrel should stand in a warm place.

KEEP THE CATTLE GROWING.

The most successful breeders of horses, cattle, sheep or swine, know from experience that although they may possess the best breeding animals, they will not be successful in producing superior stock if a continual growth of young animals is not kept up. In order to begin in time at this indispensable preparation for success, the brood mares, cows, ewes and sows are most carefully and suitably fed while with young, and as soon as the young animals make their appearance, they are taken the greatest care of, the dams being suitably fed while suckling, and when the young ones are weaned, they are not supposed to want for food or drink a single hour. By this means a continuous or rapid growth of age, and the animals attain a large size and heavy weight at an early age. When breeding animals are not properly fed and comfortably sheltered in winter, the bad effect of such treatment is not confined to their own want of condition—it is shared by their progeny, and can never be remediated. When young stock are not fed well and comfortably sheltered in winter, their growth becomes stunted, and no subsequent amount of good treatment can repair the damage. Young animals may suffer for want of proper provender in summer and autumn, as well as in winter, and when this happens it stops continuous growth and prevents ultimate success in the objects of the breeders.—*Working Farmer.*

LONG TURNIPS ECONOMICAL.

A German agricultural journal prints a plea for long furrows. The turning of the plow and the commencing of a new furrow require more exertion in the plowman and the team than continued work on a straight line; and how great may really be the loss of time from frequent interruptions in short turns, may be shown by the following calculations: In a field 225 feet long, five and a half hours out of ten are used in redirecting the plow; with a length of 575 feet, four hours are sufficient for the purpose; and when the plow can proceed without interruption for 800 feet, only one and a half hours of the daily working time are consumed.

VERMIN ON FOWLS.

An effectual process for cleaning the hennery of vermin is to fumigate the building with sulphur. The quantity will be determined by the size of the building. Where it is not attached to the barn or sheds, from one to two pounds will probably be sufficient.

KNOTS ON PLUM TREES.

A correspondent of the Farmers' Club, New York, says that for removing knots from plum trees, he takes a paint-brush, dips it in spirits of turpentine, and thoroughly saturates the knot, being careful not to touch the tree except in the diseased parts. The turpentine kills the exerescence, and the tree puts out healthy branches below. He burns all branches of diseased trees which he has removed in pruning.

MULCHING STRAWBERRIES.

A correspondent to an exchange says: The snow fell before I had a chance to cover my strawberry beds. Will it do any good to put on mulch now? It answers: The snow is an excellent mulch, and answers all purposes, if it would remain on the ground until April. Put on the mulch by all means on the top of the snow, and as the latter disappears the hay or straw will settle down on the plants and protect them from the bad effects of alternate freezing and thawing which on wet or clay ground will "heave" the stock.

ROSE-BUSHES.

Insects of various kinds multiplate and destroy the leaves of rose-bushes and other garden shrubs. A member of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, at the last session, stated that a strong tea made from quassia bark, and sprinkled on the leaves would effectually drive them away. No statement was made as to the frequence of the application, but this can be determined by careful experiment. The quassia bark can be had at drug stores, and can be made very beautiful. Strong growers and profuse bloomers are used, and when desirable to have the hedge of a certain height this can be done by using trellises.

"AS DULL AS HOPE."

This is an old favorite comparison, and it seems cruel to rob it of its poetry. But a free use of the file or grindstone is as tough on the comparison as the dull edge of a cross-cut saw. Certainly it is poor economy to save the wear of the hoe, of necessity only half killing the weeds and making heavy toil of otherwise light work. A file, even an old one cleaned with diluted acid, will answer every purpose, or a grindstone, if one has not. Never mind the stones, grind do dull, a sharp hoe carefully used will accomplish more than the noisy grubbing of a dull one. It is a pleasure to see the hoe daily narrow up and the corners gradually rounded off, for honest labor and constant service benefits the hoe, making the blade thinner and smaller. Sharpen the hoe then first, to save labor; second, to make it "a neater work; third, to keep it bright; finally to have the pleasure of seeing it grow old in the service.

EXCELLENT WHITEWASH.

The following is said to be the very best of the numerous recipes for whitewashing: White chalk is the best substitute for lime as a wash. A very fine and brilliant whitewash preparation of chalk is called the "Paris White." This we buy at the paint store for three cents a pound, retail. Put in each sixteen pounds of Paris White we procure half a pound of the white transparent glue, costing twenty-five cents (fifty cents a pound). The sixteen pounds of Paris White is always ground, as a person will use in a day. It is prepared as known? The glue is covered with cold water at night, and in the morning is carefully dissolved, without scorching, until dissolved. The Paris White is stirred in with hot water to give it the proper milky consistency for applying to walls, and the glue dissolved is then added and thoroughly mixed. It is then applied with a brush like the common lime white wash. Except on very dark and smoky walls, a single coat is sufficient. It is surprising the brilliancy to "zinc white," a far more expensive article.

KEEPING VEGETABLES AND FRUIT IN CANS.

The most common method of guarding vegetables and fruits against the severities of the winter months is to keep them in the cellar of the house. In avoiding the cold, most farmers rush to the other extreme, and damage them by too much heat. The windows are stopped, and the underpinning of the house is banked up, and all around with fresh earth place is left for ventilation. The heat makes the vegetables grow, the fruit rots and the farmer comes to the conclusion that his cellar does not keep vegetables well. Generally speaking he destroys ten bushels of vegetables where he cold does one. If the cellar has a keeper it will generally perform its office well. The whole secret lies in regulating the temperature and the ventilation. One window, at least, in the cellar should be hung upon hinges, so that the temperature can be reduced if it grows too warm, or raised by shutting it, as the weather outside varies. To do this perfectly, it is necessary to have a thermometer hung in the cellar, and not far from the window. The latter will become be the coolest part of the cellar, and if the mercury does not fall below the freezing point the fruit and vegetables will not suffer from frost. In the coldest weather, if practicable, the windows may be left open, sometimes for hours together. In cold nights it can be shut tight. Fresh air is necessary, and the window may be left open a little and the temperature be very nicely regulated. The rule is to keep the cellar as cool as possible without freezing, and by means of a thermometer and ventilation this can be done by day to day, or hour by hour. The best way is not to do colored dresses on the day of the general wash, but to give them a morning by themselves. They should only be undertaken in clear bright weather. If allowed to freeze, the colors will be irreparably injured. No colored article should ever be boiled or scalded at all. Some colors (especially pinks and light greens), though very stout, stand all well in washing, will change as soon as a warm iron is applied to them; the pink turning purplish and the green bluish. No colored article should be smoothed with a hot iron.

BOILED CORN FOR HOGS.

I experimented five years in fattening hogs, three with meal well scalded and cooked before feeding, the other two in feeding corn boiled. I shelled the corn from the cob, and boiled it slowly in a boiler and fed eight quarts per hog daily; keeping the boiler well covered all the time, so, as to save all the heat possible. The hogs that I fed with boiled corn fattened fully one fourth faster than with meal, and the pork was well packed with leaf lard and was solid and delicious enough for the most fastidious.

WASHING MADE EASY.

One of my neighbors has fattened his hogs for several years past on dry meal, giving two quarts to each hog three times a day, for drink he gives sour milk. He claims this to be the cheapest and best way. Certainly there are no better than he raises, for their age and no cleaner, handsomer pork.—*Cor. The People.*

TO MAKE SOFT SOAP WITH POTASH.

To cleanse the grease, put it to weak lye; keep it at a hot and gentle heat and boil it. When all pieces are eaten up, fill the kettle up with cold water; let it stand until cold, when the grease will rise to the top. Take off and prepare to make the soap. Twenty pounds of grease to thirteen pounds of potash are required to make a barrel of soap. Get the best part of the cake and dissolve it; strain the lye into the barrel. (There will be settlings in the best of potash; but keep it out of the barrel by straining the lye.) Melt the grease and strain into the barrel also, and thus avoid the filth so commonly found where one gets near the bottom of the barrel. With a stick in the barrel stir the grease well, say three or four times a day, thoroughly. It will thicken gradually, and make most beautiful soap. If made in cold weather the barrel should stand in a warm place.

KEEP THE CATTLE GROWING.

The most successful breeders of horses, cattle, sheep or swine, know from experience that although they may possess the best breeding animals, they will not be successful in producing superior stock if a continual growth of young animals is not kept up. In order to begin in time at this indispensable preparation for success, the brood mares, cows, ewes and sows are most carefully and suitably fed while with young, and as soon as the young animals make their appearance, they are taken the greatest care of, the dams being suitably fed while suckling, and when the young ones are weaned, they are not supposed to want for food or drink a single hour. By this means a continuous or rapid growth of age, and the animals attain a large size and heavy weight at an early age. When breeding animals are

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 13, 1873.

SENATE.

At the session this evening the following bills were read:

Mr. Rutan—An act to compel railroad companies to finish their roads; also, supplement to penal laws; also, to repeal the law relating to laying out a State road in Beaver county.

Mr. Graham—Act to incorporate the Central Market Company of Allegheny; act to incorporate the Iron City Mutual Insurance Company; to incorporate the Knox Farm Land Improvement Company: changing the time of holding the election in Tarentum; to annul the charter of the East Liberty and Penn township Plankroad Company; act to make the managers of the Allegheny County Workhouse elective by the people.

Mr. Playford—Act relating to absentees; also to incorporate the Belle Vernon Printing Association.

Mr. Humphreys—Act for the inspection of steam boilers for Allegheny county.

Mr. Petriken offered a resolution for a committee of five to report a fish bill.

Bills Passed.

The following bills were passed:

Act relating the Allegheny county sinking funds.

Act relating to Surveyor and Civil Engineer of Allegheny county.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 7:30 o'clock this evening pursuant to adjournment, and took up the private calendar. The following Western bills were passed:

An act to prevent cattle, horses, sheep, goats and swine from running at large in Pine Grove township, Warren county.

An act to authorize the School Directors of Emlenmon, Venango county, to borrow money, issue bonds and levy a tax.

An act to legalize the assessment made by the School Directors of Manor township, Armstrong county, to pay costs in certain cases.

Supplement to an act authorizing the School Directors of Pleasantville, Venango county, to borrow money.

An act to repeal an act to regulate the election of School Directors in the sub-district in the city of Pittsburgh.

Supplement to an act to incorporate the Second Bank of the city of Pittsburgh.

An act conferring additional privileges to the Johnstown Savings bank.

An act to incorporate the Wylie Avenue Savings Bank of Pittsburgh.

An act extending the charter of the Blair Iron and Coal Company.

An act to establish a ferry over the Allegheny river at Roseton, Armstrong county.

Senate bill. An act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Bridge Company.

Senate bill. An act to incorporate the Venango Bridge Company at Oil City.

An act relating to road and bridge viewers in Cambria county.

An act to annul the marriage contract between Jackson Walter and Lucy A., his wife.

An act to annul the marriage contract between Edmund J. O'Neill and Margaret O'Neill, his wife.

An act to annul the marriage contract between Lillie S. Evans and Charles H. Evans.

An act to change the name of the borough of Riverton, in the county of Bedford, to that of Everette.

An act to incorporate the Elinboro Savings bank, in the county of Erie.

An act to exempt certain bonds heretofore made in mortgages of married women in the county of Washington.

Senate bill, an act to authorize the holding of special courts in Fayette county.

An act to repeal "An act for the better and more impartial selection of persons to serve as jurors in this Commonwealth," so far as relates to the county of Allegheny.

An act to cure the mistakes or misnomers in Sheriff's deeds in the county of Washington.

Senate bill. An act for the relief of Wm. Kelly, a soldier of the war of 1812.

Supplement to an act granting a pension to Jacob Hurst.

An act amending an act entitled "a supplement to the several acts incorporating the city of Pittsburgh, and enlarging its boundaries."

An act to authorize the city of Titusville to issue bonds.

An act prescribing the mode and manner of electing the clerks of the city of Pittsburgh and city of Allegheny.

An act to authorize the borough of Millvale, in Allegheny county, to borrow money.

An act to establish the location of streets in the borough of Millvale, in Allegheny county.

An act to incorporate the Ebensburg Mining and Manufacturing Company.

An act to incorporate the Pittsburgh and Birmingham Passenger Railway Company to extend their double track from Seventh avenue to the Union Depot.

An act to protect miners in the bituminous coal regions of this Commonwealth. Reconsidered and put on public calendar for next week.

Supplement to an act to incorporate the borough of New Wilmington, in Lawrence county.

A supplement to an act relating to livery stable keepers in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties, extending the same to Butler county.

An act in relation to the collection of stock and mercantile licenses by the Treasurer of Allegheny City.

A supplement to an act authorizing the improvement of creeks and rivulets in the county of Cambria.

An act relating to the liens of mechanics, material men and laborers in the county of Butler.

An act to provide for the redemption of certain bonds issued by the Commissioners of Venango county.

An act to prevent cattle, horses, mules, sheep and swine from running at large in Plainsgrove township, Lawrence county.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 14, 1873.

SENATE.

The following petitions were presented:

From School Directors of First ward, Allegheny, for the passage of a law authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commissioner of Text Books.

From citizens of Beaver county for a law to compel railways and citizens to fence the roads.

Reports of Committees.

Act to incorporate Monongahela Railroad. Supplement to act for the improvement of Penn avenue.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Playford—To incoporate the Monongahela Improvement Company; also to facilitate the collection of claims against counties.

Mr. Humphreys—Supplement to the Russian Bath Company of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Graham—Act authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commissioner of Text Books.

Bill Passed.

Act repealing the law exempting certain real estate from taxation, with a proviso that it shall not affect the general law exempting real estate from taxation.

The Senate adjourned until Monday evening.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the consideration of the private calendar.

The act to protect miners was made a public bill, and postponed till next Thursday.

Mr. Smith, of Fayette, moved an amendment to the Peddlers' Tax law.

The Jury Commissioner bill was reconsidered and amended by tacking all counties in the State on, and then voted down by 22 to 53. The House adjourned till Tuesday morning.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 17, 1873.

Mr. Rutan introduced a resolution recalling the Pennsylvania Railroad bill from the Governor, for the purpose of fixing the capital stock, which was passed.

The bill relative to timber inspectors of Allegheny, abolishing the same for square timber, was called up and passed finally.

Mr. Rutan called up and had passed the bill authorizing the Governor to appoint as many notaries public as he may deem expedient, upon the payment of twenty-five dollars each.

Wednesday has been fixed for the consideration of the general insurance laws.

The bill relative to the Court House in Pittsburgh was taken up by Senator Graham and referred to their appropriate committees.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was not in session.

A bill is before the Legislature of the members of the House to repeal the charter of the Consolidated Gas Company. The bill provides that the corporators named in the original charter, or a majority of them, shall wind up the affairs of that corporation, and after a certificate of such settlement has been filed in the office of the Secretary of State, the rights, franchises and privileges of that corporation are annulled and repealed.

Failure of the Bill to Abolish the Jury System—Why it Failed—Exemption of Real Estate from Taxation—The Question Discussed in Both Houses—General Bill Passed by the Senate Repealing All Special Laws on the Subject—Local House Bills Passed by the Senate—South Side Omnibus Bill Amended by Striking Out the Monopoly Clause—West Virginia Improvement Company—State Commission to Select School Text Books.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 14, 1873.

After three days of enforced idleness, both Houses came together last night with a

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1873.

THE statement of Vice President COLFAX regarding the one thousand dollar bill received last year from Mr. NESBITT, of New York city, is corroborated by Hon. WILLIAM A. HOWARD, of Michigan, who says he was present at Mr. COLFAX's house when the latter received the letter containing the money in question.

THE election season is gradually coming round again. There will soon be important elections in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, while later in the year Maine, and Connecticut, while later in the year Maine, and Connecticut, while later in the year Maine, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Virginia, Mississippi and Texas each elect a Governor and State Legislature. In Illinois, Indiana and some other States there will be elections for county officers, while general elections will be held for members of the Legislature in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Kansas and California.

THE judicial decisions heretofore rendered in the State of New York, that the public acknowledgment by a man of a woman as his wife, even though no marriage ceremony has been performed, constituted her such, and gave her title in his estate, have just been strengthened. On Saturday a woman went before one of the courts in New York city, and preferred a charge of vagrancy against her daughter, in order to prevent the latter from living with a man in an unmarried state. Upon the man, in answer to a question of the Judge, acknowledging the girl as his wife, she was discharged, the justice stating that such acknowledgment made them legally man and wife.

SOME weeks ago we called attention to the decision of an Illinois court, in which the liability of common carriers for merchandise destroyed by fire while yet in the custody of the carrier (the Merchants' Dispatch Transportation Company), and before the consignee had notice of its arrival or opportunity to remove it, being the issue involved, the carrier was held liable and judgment rendered for the value of the property burned. The Supreme Court of that State has now reversed this decision, holding that when the goods arrived in the depot, and were unladen and placed in a safe warehouse, the liability of the appellant ceased, and that it was liable thereafter only as a warehouse-man. Notice of the arrival was not required to be given to the consignee. The decision possesses considerable interest for the business classes of the country.

IT IS STATED, in a Harrisburg letter to a Philadelphia paper, that the liquor men of the State have raised a round $200,000 for the purpose of securing the repeal of the Local Option law; that enough votes have already been secured in the House to reject the supplement and repeal the present law, but that even if the House should prove reckless enough to do so, there is no present hope of the Senate concurring in such action. The same writer states that the Governor has been covertly approached on the subject, but has emphatically declared that he will veto any bill passed for repeal, for the reason that the people are in favor of local option, and he is resolved to respect their wishes. The writer adds that he believes that the opponents of local option have made or are making any attempt whatever to bribe the Legislature; or that, if made, it would meet with the slightest success.

THE Boston papers predict excellent results from the opening of the Public Library on Sunday. Thus far the experiment is said to have proved an exceedingly gratifying success. The attendance has been liberal in numbers, orderly in conduct, and evidently in the main disposed to beneficial reading, the classes of literature called for being the popular magazines, the London *Athenæum* and *Saturday Review*, the English and American pictorials, the French *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and the scientific papers. The ages of persons attending ranged from sixteen to sixty, a majority of them bearing the appearance of mechanics, who thus disposed of their leisure in a manner not available during week days. There was no loud talking or boisterous behavior, nor did any of the visitors seem to be there to meet their friends or to make appointments, as the opponents of the innovation feared they would. It is sincerely to be hoped that these favorable auguries may continue.

THE "Rev." CHARLES W. DENISON, who earned a brief and unenviable notoriety during last summer by his unfounded charges of infamy against ex-President GRANT, has again come to the surface as an applicant for governmental relief. In his claim, which is one of the coolest on record, he asks compensation for services rendered in England to this government. It appears that, in December, 1862, DENISON was known on the army rolls as Hospital Chaplain; that he obtained a furlough on account of ill health; that he then applied to Secretary STANTON for a position in the supply ship commissioned with provisions to the Lancashire weavers, which application was not granted; that, however, he went to England, and, in consequence, was characterized upon the army rolls as absent without leave, and dishonorably dismissed. Since then he has been an applicant for compensation for such services. The Congressional Committee very properly say that there is no ground for the claim. It is well known to those acquainted with the facts of his actions in England, that he did the United States more harm than good.

THE Boston *Advertiser* prints some valuable statistics showing what a golden opportunity the trouble in the English coal and iron trades has furnished for the iron interests of this country. It appears that the production of American railroad iron in 1872 reached the unprecedented amount of 975,000 tons, an increase of 200,000 tons in one year. As compared with 1864 the production of last year shows an increase of 191 per cent., the amount in the former year having been only 335,000 tons. The importation of rails from Great Britain in 1872 amounted to 472,760 tons, or 529,491 tons of 2,000 pounds. In 1871 the proportion of English railroad iron to the entire consumption was more than forty-three per cent., but it was reduced for 1872 to thirty-five per cent., the supply from Great Britain having actually diminished during the year, while the aggregate consumption was increased by more than 150,000 tons. Moreover, the prospects of the trade were never better than they are now. The foreign markets are in a most unsettled condition, our capacity of production is steadily increasing, and the demand for consumption goes on at an accelerating ratio. All the indications point to an early and complete deliverance of this country from its past dependency on the British iron market. So much for the splendid fostering influences of the protective policy. What have the scoffers and defenders to say about it, now?

THE TAX QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.

The Constitutional Convention adopted, some days since, the section fixing the qualifications of voters, as it was framed by Hon. J. W. F. WHITE, of this county. We do not object to it, in its general features; but one provision in it is, to our minds, extremely objectionable. We mean that part which provides that any one may vote at any election who has paid a State or county tax within two years which has been assessed at least two months before the election.

This is a continuation of the provision in the present Constitution which allows any one to vote who has paid a State or county tax within two years which has been assessed at least ten days before the election. The present instrument requiring only ten days residence previous to election, and the new one proposing to extend that term to two months.

If a Registry law is deemed an essential pre-requisite to pure elections, it must, in order to be effective, provide that no one shall vote at any election who is not on the registry of voters; and no such registry can be had, where the Constitution creates a qualification to vote which is independent of the registry. And that is just what is done by the section which the Convention has adopted. It renders a complete registry impossible, and compels the door to be left open to all who are not registered and yet have the constitutional qualifications of voters.

Let us illustrate our meaning. A, B, and C are miners or laborers with no very settled residence. They live, say, in Union township in 1873, and are assessed and pay their taxes there. They move, in July or August, 1874, into Wilkins township. They are there two months before the election, and are not on the registered list of voters of that township. Yet, when the election comes on they present themselves and prove that they are citizens; that they have resided two months in the township and one year in the State; and that they have paid a county tax within two years, which has been assessed at least two months before the election. Can these men be excluded from voting, merely because they are not on the registry? Certainly not; because they have all the qualifications for voters which the Constitution prescribes. No election officer would be justified in refusing them; and as the country is full of voters who are constantly changing their residences, cases of this kind would be constantly occurring. Our present registry law has a provision covering this very class of cases, and necessity compelled its enactment, to save the law from being condemned as unconstitutional; and as the new Constitution continues practically the same provisions as the old, no such thing as a complete registry can be had under it.

The remedy is to be found in abandoning the folly of reaching back two years for a qualification for voters. There is no need of going back so far. If we are to have a tax qualification, at all, as a preliminary to voting, let it be required that the voter shall first pay the tax of the year in which he offers to vote, before his vote shall be received. Then the assessment list will be a complete registry, and in no other way can it be made so. Assessment, under our present system, while the new Constitution would continue, is a preliminary to voting; but it is an assessment which may have been made this year, last year, or the year before, all that is required being to prove that the tax so assessed was *paid* within two years. Of course, under such a plan, no assessment for any particular year can be conclusive as to the voter's right to vote. What is needed is to make the Assessor's list the register of voters for the year, and this can be accomplished only by requiring the voter to pay the tax for the year in which he offers to vote.

The Convention will act wisely, we think, in giving up this two years qualification. We would be much better pleased to see it give up the tax qualification altogether; but if we are to have that continued, let the change we have suggested be adopted as the best and surest way of purifying elections.

ADVANCEMENT IN GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE.

Comparatively few people have any adequate conception of what has been done in this country in the way of scientific and geographical exploration and achievement during the past year. Much interesting information on this important subject is contained in the published report of the annual address the other day delivered by Chief Justice DALY, of New York, before the American Geographical Society, on "The Geographical Work of the World in 1872." The report of the exploration of the Valley of the Yellowstone, during 1871, created such an interest that Congress passed a law reserving 3,575 square miles for the benefit and instruction of mankind. To complete this exploration a second expedition was started last summer. A route has been surveyed from Ogden, Utah, to Fort Hall, Idaho, the great Teton Mountains have been explored, and the valleys of the Yellowstone carefully examined. Upon the summit of the grand Teton mines of great age were found, at an elevation of 13,762 feet above the sea. The examination of the four remarkable passes at the head of Henry's Fork was another important result of this expedition. This region seems to form the apex of the continent. From it flow the waters of the Missouri, Columbia and Colorado. Explorations have also been made in the region of the Upper Yellowstone, and among the mountain's of the Wintaw range. The last named region is found to be eminently adapted for grazing The survey of the Colorado has been continued, developing the existence of coal, salt and metals, and the remains of prehistoric houses. The Aleutian Islands have been explored under the auspices of the Coast Survey. Trace' were found of a race prior to the present inhabitants. The ruins of a populous city have been discovered in a desolate part of Arizona, covering an area of three miles, in which the houses were all of sand stone, and which was surrounded by a wall of the same material. An expedition has been exploring the sea between our coast and Japan, in the interests of commerce. The operations of the Signal Service have been extended into Canada and Nova Scotia, and have proved of great importance in giving warnings of approaching storms, and of these great waves which have covered the country with snow. The Hassler expedition has resulted in a great deal of new scientific knowledge in the detection of past glacial action and existing glaciers, and in storing an immense zoological collection. Much progress, too, has been made in the survey of the canal routes for the connection of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and an expedition for geographical and archæological labors has lately been dispatched to Syria and the Jordan, while Captain HALL's expedition to the North Pole also will soon be manifested by the United States in the subject of Arctic exploration. This wide spread activity of labor and research reflects great credit on the intelligence and character of our people.

IT IS curious to note the sudden interest manifested throughout the Southern States with regard to the President's proposed tour through that section, and to observe the remarkable change of tone and temper exhibited toward him by papers which, a few short months ago, accused him of being not only utterly wanting in every requisite for his office, but destitute also of every higher quality of manhood. He is now no longer in their view a stolid, impassible soldier—a dull wooden representative of an unscrupulous and corrupt administration, but a man of wise, generous and sympathetic spirit, to whose approaching visit they look forward with great eagerness, as presaging all manner of benefit to themselves and their portion of our common country. It is gratifying to witness these indications of the growing access of fair-mindedness and fraternal feeling on the part of the South. But the presence of General GRANT among that people will quite fail of its hoped for effect unless they, in turn, extend to the people of other parts of the country the cordiality and co-operation they ask for themselves. Heretofore they have been nearly as much mistaken in their estimate of the general character and purposes of the administration as in their conception of the personal character of the Executive.

A LAMB IN WOLF'S CLOTHES.

A Woman who Succeeds in Passing Herself off as a Man, but Becomes Insane and Her Secret is Discovered.

A few days since a person was brought to the insane retreat in Hartford, Conn., by the Deputy Sheriff of Westport, under the name of Patrick Holden. He was pronounced perfectly crazy and was with difficulty kept under control. It was soon discovered that the new arrival was a woman, and not a man, and quite a sensation was created. A Westport correspondent of a New York papers gives some facts in relation to this curious case. He says:

"Some three years since a person giving his name as Patrick Holden came to this place and applied for a situation. Mr. Moses Sherwood, a large farm owner, took him into his employ. He proved to be a valuable acquisition to the farm force, and performed the duties required of him at all times faithfully. He hoed, mowed, and worked with others in the fields, drove the oxen, rode the horses, and always exhibited muscular strength, boldness and firmness—traits belonging to the sterner sex, and in that respect his docility and tenderness characteristic of the female sex was never discernable.

"During three years he boarded at the house of his employer, and neither Mr. Sherwood nor any of his family or neighbors had ever suspected that he was she. He was bright, intelligent, and soon became a favorite with the inmates among whom he then daily made his home. Last middle of January last when unmistakable signs of a deranged mind showed themselves.

"Mrs. Sherwood was first to take note of the change, and so informed her husband. Neither, however suspected that it was a women toward whom they were exercising sympathy. By kindness and watching they succeeded in keeping the unfortunate under control until the 25th, when he became perfectly crazy, and was conveyed to the retreat at Hartford by Deputy Sheriff Rufus Cable, assisted by Dr. James Allen, when the fraud of the patient was discovered. The disclosures made at the retreat have produced the greatest excitement among those here who thought they knew the stranger best, and the excitement will rife as to what may be the next local sensation."

French Metal Casting.

It is well known that, in the ordinary process of casting metals, the air inclosed in the interior of the moulds, not being driven out at the moment when the metal is poured in, forms between the casting and the mould a very thin envelope, which prevents the metal from taking the exact form of the mould, and which occasions air holes and other defects—an inconvenience particularly felt in works of artetc.

The remedy for this is a process, recently brought forward in France, based upon the employment of a vacuum. At the moment of casting, the mould is placed in communication with an air pump, in such a manner that the air is drawn from the mould through the poresof the metal of which it is made. The interior surface of the mould is, therefore, covered with a substance sufficiently porous to allow the air to pass, but of ample resistance to guarantee perfection in the form of the object cast, whatever the article may be.

The material employed in this process varies with the nature of the metal from which the object is to be cast. Thus, in the case of those metals which are very easily fusible, as fusible metal, the plan is to use fine plaster, well dried. For harder metals, such as bronze, the plan is to use plaster mixed in about equal proportions with plumbago, alum and other substances of a similar nature—this mixture having been previously dried in the most thorough manner, in order to drive off all the water from the plaster. For more refractory metals, such as cast-iron and steel, the mould is simply covered with plumbago, or some analagous material.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 18, 1873.

SENATE.

The Governor sent his first veto message in this morning, on Senator Playford's bill, authorizing cumulative voting in Connellsville.

Senator Graham read an act relative to mechanics' liens on leaseholds, and called up and passed Batchelor's bond bill, with an amendment by Senator White, to tax the bonds; also an act to authorize the city of Allegheny to issue water bonds to the amount of $150,000; also an act relative to paving of streets.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Mahon, of Franklin, chairman of the General Judiciary Committee, asked leave to report the Local Option bill, authorizing the city of Pittsburgh to vote. Refused.

The Allegheny Land Improvement Company bill excited considerable debate, during which the bill was amended by repealing the charter to which it referred.

Mr. Lawson's improvement bill for Clarion river was called up, and Mr. Orvis and Mr. Lawson debated it for an hour. The bill was defeated.

The Senate amendments to the House bill authorizing the Judges to fix the salaries of tipstaves and criers in Allegheny County Courts were non-concurred in on motion of Mr. Ramsey.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The private calendar was taken up and the following bills passed:

Supplement to Wood's Run Savings bank.

An act incorporating the People's bank of Fayette county.

An act incorporating the United States Savings bank of Pittsburg.

Supplement to Wildwood avenue act.

Authorizing the levy of tax in Millvale.

Supplement to an act establishing a ferry at Freeport.

An act incorporating the Union Bridge Company.

Mr. Smith, of Fayette, presented the petition of numerous persons for the extension of the Luzerne road laws of Luzerne county to Fayette.

Bank Bill Reported.

The Bank Committee held a session to-day, and favorably reported the act incorporating the Fidelity Trust Company of Pittsburgh, the supplement to the Temperanceville bank, and the supplement to the Shoe and Leather bank.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Bill.

The bill of the Pennsylvania Railroad was amended, after recalling it from the Governor, to limit the increase to double the amount of their present capital stock.

The City Bridge Bill.

Quite a discussion took place on the Oil City Bridge bill. It was passed finally, with an amendment by Mr. Ramsey, inserting "from Petroleum street to Lincoln street."

Bonds Bill to Committee.

At the night session of the Committee on Banks, Mr. McCormick, of Allegheny, brought out all the Allegheny banks with favorable recommendations, viz.: The House Real Estate and Savings, the supplement to the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Wheatland the Keller & Thus Bank of Industry, the Pennsylvania Improvement and Trust, supplement to the Nation's Bank of Allegheny supplement to the Union Savings Bank, and an act to incorporate the Hoboken Bank.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 19, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Sample, of Allegheny, presented the remonstrance of James B. Fulton, Geo. E. Magraw, John Boyd and five hundred others against the appropriation of money to the Centennial or any other celebration or purpose, except the necessary expenses of the government.

Local Option Test.

Mr. Wainwright moved the House adjourn from Thursday till next Tuesday, in order to give the Luzerne contested election committee an opportunity to visit Scranton to take testimony.

Mr. Mahon, of Franklin, objected. This would prevent the Local Option bill from coming up, and unless it was considered this immediately the bill would be of no use. The spring elections would have taken place.

The adjournment was carried by a vote of 56 to 45. All the Allegheny delegation voted for the adjournment, except Newmeyer and Young.

Reports from Committees.

Act extending the provisions of the Election Liquor law to all legal holidays, with negative recommendation.

Mr. Smith, of Fayette, reported the act incorporating the Brownsville Construction Company, act to increase the pay of Directors of the Poor in Fayette county, and act relative to sidewalks in Connellsville.

Mr. Mahon—Local Option Election bill.

Mr. Sample, Allegheny—Supplement to Real Estate Savings bank of Pittsburgh, act authorizing Baldwin township, city of Pittsburgh and Etna to borrow money, also act incorporating the Savings and Deposit bank of Birmingham.

Mr. Ramsey—Act incorporating the Armstrong Land Improvement Company, of Pittsburgh and El Paso Silver Mining Company.

Mr. Ballentine—Incorporating West Penn Coal Company.

Mr. McCormick—Supplement to Woodruff's Sleeping Car Company; also, Citizens Deposit Company of McKeesport, with negative recommendation.

Mr. Young—Act to incorporate the Pittsburgh and Coke City Railroad.

Mr. Brooks—Act relative to the new county of Minnequa out of parts of Bradford and Lycoming.

Mr. Wolf—Supplement to South Side Railroad.

Bills in Place.

Mr. McCormick—Act limiting the liability; act incorporating Northern Coal Company, supplement to Eureka Hotel Company; act changing name of Jones & Minnick Manufacturing Company; act relative to taxation in the city of Pittsburgh; act creating an additional law judge in the District Court, Pittsburgh; act re-locating Mt. Washington road; act relative to licenses on vehicles in Mansfield; act repealing the law for the preservation of good order in the offices of Justices of the Peace; act relative to fees, salaries and duties of Sheriff's officers; act to authorize the city of Pittsburgh to borrow money and issue bonds for the fire department to the amount of $100,000; act relative to the opening, grading and paving of Kirkpatrick street.

Mr. Ballentine—Act relative to roads in Elizabeth township, act incorporating the Continental bank.

Mr. Young—Act to enable the School Directors of Charleroi to borrow money; act to prevent horses, cattle, sheep and swine from running at large in Allegheny county.

Mr. Ramsey—Act incorporating Etna Savings bank; act prohibiting the manufacture of oil barrels in the county workhouse.

Mr. Newmeyer—Act relating to the evidence of titles in Allegheny county; act relative to the appointment of reporter to the Supreme Court changing the manner of appointing the same.

Mr. Laidly, of Greene—Act changing the time of holding the county courts in Greene.

Mr. Lawson, of Clarion—Act for the protection of fish in Forest county; supplement to an act to empower guardians to lease the mineral lands of their wards in Mercer county; extending the provisions of the same to the county of Clarion; an act to exempt the parsonage of the First Presbyterian church in the borough of Clarion, and that of the Lutheran Leatherwood in the county of Clarion, and the parsonage of the Church of Mt. Pisgah, in Jefferson county, from taxation.

Mr. Allison, of Washington—An act to incorporate the Newport Pennsylvania Coal Company, with land lying between Monongahela City and Bentleyville.

Contract with Coal Screen Bill.

The delegation of coal miners and operators mutually agree to have the consideration of the Screen bill postponed for one week, in order that a Committee of Conference may be appointed to propose a compromise bill if possible.

SENATE.

The bill relating to inspectors of steam boilers in Allegheny was reported affirmatively, and extra numbers ordered to be printed; also, supplement to the Allegheny Prison act.

Bills in Place.

Mr. Playford—Act to incorporate the Indian Creek and Ligonier Valley Railroad.

Mr. Graham—Act to incorporate the Slaughtering and Rendering Company of Allegheny; also, to incorporate the Young Men's Home of Pittsburgh.

Mr. White—Act to incorporate the Latrobe Iron and Steel Company.

Mr. Humphreys—Act to incorporate the National Transit Company of Pittsburgh.

Insurance Business.

Mr. Rutan's act organizing an insurance department, and providing for the regulation of the same, passed the Senate at the afternoon session.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 18, 1873.

Three bills have engaged all day on finishing the private calendar begun last week but completed, and in passing through the Senate yesterday for the people of the Telegraph will advise you of the bills of local interest acted on. The only noteworthy thing has occurred in the Senate without the House, is the passage of the bill to repeal all laws exempting real estate from taxation, except those enumerated in the bill itself. It passed the Senate almost unanimously, and the House will probably do it a week or two, unless it shall change its mind. The Senate Finance Committee has negatived every bill yet offered exempting real estate from taxation, and they will keep on. The firmness already shown on this point, however, has materially checked the rush for this kind of legislation, which began early in the session, and will probably stop it altogether, if the firmness be maintained.

The bill to which I referred in my last, to provide a new method for determining the quality of jurors to be drawn to serve in trials in homicide cases, was amended so as to obviate the local objections raised to it, and passed. How it will fare in the House I cannot tell.

The House has been

CATACLYSM.

The Rise in the Monongahela.

Extensive Destruction of Property.

Steamers, Coal Boats and Barges Succumb to the Raging River and are Swept Away.

TWO MEN DROWNED.

Millions of Bushels of Coal Lost.

List of the Losses—Insurance—Scenes on the River—On the Wharves—At the South Side Landings—The Water Street Saloons, &c., &c.

The sudden rise in the Monongahela river, which was referred to in our issue of Monday, continued until an early hour Tuesday morning, the water, however, not rising so rapidly as on Monday morning. The loss resulting from this sudden, and to a degree unexpected, freshet will reach millions of dollars. We give below a list of disasters as far as we have been able to learn of them, but the real extent of the damage will not be ascertained for several days, nor will an accurate account of the sufferers by this sudden rise of the Monongahela river be definitely arrived at until reports are received from both above and below. The air yesterday was rife with rumors of so many boats being lost on the upper Monongahela, so many on the river, and at many points between this city and Wheeling. To listen to all the stories told about the disasters to river craft would be a herculean task. Although while on the wharf at 2:30 yesterday morning our reporter was assured that no less than twenty-eight pilots had been drowned, yet the most urgent inquiry in the afternoon results in the assurance that but two lives are lost.

ON THE WHARF.

From an early hour Monday morning the Monongahela wharf presented a scene of great activity. At about three o'clock nearly every boat at the landing was "firing up," and as soon as steam sufficient was raised the whistles were opened and the night air was filled with their shrieks of distress, while the ringing of the bells, the hurrying to and fro of excited men, the placing of new tow lines in use, the shouts of the commanders and the responses of the men, seemed to make the roaring of the mighty element increase in volume as if to keep pace with the noise of the bells and whistles.

From the Connellsville Railroad Depot down to the Point could be seen the moving lamps carried by the boatmen as they threw out their extra hawsers and used such other means as suggested themselves for the protection of their charges. Citizens who had been awakened by the noise of the bells and whistles, left their warm couches to learn the cause of the turmoil, and as the gazed at the destruction of property going on, they congratulated themselves that they were not in the coal or steamboat trade.

ON THE RIVER.

The surface of the water, looking from the suspension bridge, presented a very unusual appearance. The stream was dotted with barges, wrecks of wooden structures, coal tipples, skiffs, rafts, trees and debris of many descriptions. Along the city and South Side wharves steamboats and barges were protected from the fury of the waters, the men were moving about their craft with lighted lanterns, some at the pumps, others on the lookout for approaching wrecks, while still more men were engaged in throwing out extra lines and making their boats more secure. Many tow boats had steam up and were exercising service by dropping behind their tows and steaming against the current, thus relieving the strain upon the hawsers. Every time a wreck could be heard at one or other of the piers of the bridge as floating property would strike them, and be dashed to atoms. By the aid of the great lights that would now and then flash up from the stacks of the South Side the dark floating masses were discovered to be either boats or barges of coal stealing quietly on to destruction. Thousands upon thousands of bushels of black diamonds have been lost, the burial place of which will remain unknown until the flood has subsided and the sediment in all of our rivers recovered their wonted peaceful and calm condition.

ON THE BRIDGES.

While there were those about at an early hour who refused to walk out upon the Monongahela bridge and take a look at the state of affairs, yet many who had old time faith in the structure did so; and if the sight of thousands of dollars worth of property going to destruction without the slightest effort being made to save it gave them any satisfaction, they were fully repaid for the risk, if any, which they took.

A gentleman who had witnessed the sinking of a boat near the foot of Wood street was about to cross the Birmingham ferry boat, when he stopped to ask the toll-keeper if there had been any damage done in his vicinity. He had been on the bridge and the gentleman referred to related what had happened below. He says that upon the recital several coal boat dumpers and watchmen, who were taking things easy in the toll house, ran off faster than they had for years to look after their own neglected craft.

During yesterday all of the bridges did greatly increased business, hundreds of our citizens visiting them to have a look at the work of destruction going on beneath.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

All along the south side of the river the wharf boats, denominated landings, were scenes of unusual activity. Many millions of bushels of coal are strewn in boats and barges along the river bank on this side. Every person who was in any way connected in charge to prevent the destruction of property, and with considerable success, the loss in the locality referred to not being so extensive as was at first anticipated.

THE RIVER MEN.

All day long river men were assembled in knots along the wharves and steamboat headquarters discussing the great loss of property, suggesting plans for recovering sunken boats and coal, and other topics as the events of the day suggested. Some had very long faces, while others shrugged their shoulders, and with an expression of "it can't be helped now," appeared to receive the news of their losses quite philosophically.

THE SALOONS.

The Water street saloons did a flourishing business. The excitement had so thoroughly demoralized many of the deck hands and "roustabouts" that they, with others, thought consecration the flowing bowl, and so deeply did some drain the vessel that they became drunk, and were quite impressive as to the merits of the freshet and found themselves, shortly after, coming to sober second thought behind the Central Station House.

THE LOSS OF LIFE.

The loss of life attending the disaster fortunately appears to be much less than was anticipated Monday morning. At daybreak the rumors were that about twenty-eight persons had been drowned but been increased to forty-five. Later in the day it dwindled down considerably. After minute inquiry our reporters could not find positive proof of only two persons being lost. Joseph King was in a skiff opposite Shire's coal landing at McKeesport. While passing about some coal barges the frail craft was upset and Mr. King was lost in the rapid current. His body has not been recovered. Deceased leaves a wife and one children. The other unfortunate man was Henry Smith, son of a German gardner residing on Neville island. He was on board the Tacoma F. Wiley when she was turned over. In the prevailing excitement he ran down the starboard side of the boat and was swept in the stream, which already washed the lower stack, and in a moment had disappeared under the boat.

THE FIRST LOSS.

The exit in mid stream of the wharf Monday morning is almost past description. The river men did not appear to appreciate their real danger until the coal fleet referred to in yesterday's Commercial, which broke away from the bridge, had sunk the V. F. Wilson. Then the alarm was given, and quickly the crews of the several boats were up and adopting measures for their own safety. The fleet which broke loose from the bridge consisted of twenty-four boats and barges. It was a couple of the barges from this fleet which came crashing against the Wilson, and soon she was upon her side and rapidly filled with water and sank. The Oil Valley, lying below, was also forced under by the current heading against the Wilson and she, too, soon after careened and sank in water up to within three feet of her hurricane deck. During the day the Wilson gave way to the raging stream and was carried down several hundred feet, where she was lying last evening a perfect wreck. The Oil Valley was still lying where she went down, at last accounts. If the river continues to swell it is not unlikely that the vessel will meet the fate of the Wilson. The Coal Cop pilot house was swept away and her wheel partially swept away by a passing barge. During the afternoon her damages were repaired and she steamed round to the Allegheny wharf where she secured these notable quarters.

THE LOSS OF PROPERTY.

To arrive at even an estimate of the loss by this freshet is at the present writing simply impossible. As we write telegrams (see river news) are being received from many points along the rivers giving accounts of the effects of the flood and the destruction of boats, etc. Until we can obtain such statistics as our reporters have been able to collect:

THE FIRST DISASTER.

As stated Monday, the second alarm was first started when the fleet of coal boats and barges which were tied to the piers of the Monongahela bridge broke loose. Those numbered thirty-four, owned as follows: S. Cable, 2 coal boats; J. R. Stella, 2 barges; Mrs. Hill, 1 barge; Capt. Reed Bonner, 3 barges; Wm. Neil, 1 barge; Capt. Packer, 1 barge; Chas. Hill, 2 barges; D. McCarthy, 1 barge; D. Clark, 2 fuel boats; Capt. Gray, 2 light barges; Jno. Purdy, 2 barges; 1 fuel boat, owner unknown; S. Buchanan, 2 barges, and Goodwin & McConnell, 2 barges.

WHAT THE TOWBOATS DID.

No sooner did these boats break from their moorings than a scene of great excitement ensued. The towboats Abe McDonald, Fair Play, Three Lights, and others which were attending the fleet and were in the immediate vicinity, were turned to the rescue, and succeeded in saving some of the property, a list of which comprises the following:

One Stella barge caught at head of Neville Island; 1 Stella barge caught at Phillips' landing; 1 Stella barge caught at Herriman's landing; 1 McCook barge caught at head of Neville Island; 1 McCook barge caught at Phillips' landing; 1 Gray barge caught at Phillips' landing; 1 V. F. Wilson barge caught at Merriman Crossing; 1 Wilson Cope barge caught at Merriman Crossing; two barges, No. 1 and No 2, owned by M. Given & McConnell; two barges owned by Riggs & Scott, Nos. 9 and 10; one barge at Duff's bar, no harm, marked No. 2; one barge, No. 2, J. Marrey; one barge, No. 5, Bonner; one barge, no name; one flat, Lisle & Son, and two barges, S. Cox.

Reports of the following loss s in Pool No. 4 have reached us: Mrs. Hill, 2 barges & 7 or lost two coal-boats, empty; three flats, loaded with nut coal; also one boat and rail road iron carried away; loss about $18,000. L. W. Morgan's tipple and other property was swept away. Smith & Co.'s tipple and a lot of other property was carried away; loss about $8,000. Messrs. S. Horner & Sons's dock for repairing coal flats, and some empty boats from Mechure's Landing were carried away. Smith & Ward, Fayette City, lost one tipple and other property to the value of about $5,000. T. C. Risher & Co. lost two loaded coalboats and two loaded barges. A floating barge ran into the tow boat Linn, owned by J. C. Risher & Co., broke one flange, a cane yoke and damaged the wheel. J. McCluskey, 1 coalboat, loaded; Wm. Clark & Co., 1 coalboat loaded; Thomas Fawcett, 1 coalboat partially loaded; Stella & Co., 1 loaded barge; George Miller, fuel boat; J. J. Keeling, 4 empty barges; Grand Lake Coal Company, 2 coal boats, one at the Gill dam, and the other at the foot of Brunot is land; Messrs. Phillips & Mettenzswi, proprietors of the new mills above the first dam, lost 3 coalboat bottoms, 2 flats and a large amount of lumber; H. H. Collins, 1 coal boat from above Lock No. 1, sunk at foot of Ferry street; Miller & Linn, two loaded coal boats, sunk at railroad bridge; McKnight, Duncan & Co., Birmingham Iron Works, lost two flats of coal.

At Elizabeth a number of coal barges and boats were swept away, owned by Joseph Walton, Esq.; loss probably $10,000 to $12,000; Stone & Bro. lost one empty flat.

The above were all the losses reported up to six o'clock last night. The words of an old steamboat captain is recalled where he said, "I do not think there is a man in the coal trade who has not suffered by the rise," and many say the assertion is but too true.

THE RIVERS LAST NIGHT.

Last night the Monongahela wharf presented quite a different appearance from what it did during daylight. Everything was quiet save the stream, which rushing past seemed to roar more londly, as if in bold defiance of the attempts made to prevent it doing more damage. The steamers were all firmly secured by extra lines, while on the bow of each was stationed a watchman ready to give an alarm should any new danger arise. Lights were displayed fore and aft, and from the bow of each vessel a stout spar ran to the ground, in order to "shove out" should the water recede. The freight which had been almost caught during the day by the rapidly rising stream, had all been removed to safe quarters higher up on the landing. At the hour we write we feel safe in venturing an opinion that no new danger need be feared.

THE VALUE OF BOATS AND BARGES.

Last night, in conversation with a prominent coal merchant, we learned that on a general average a coal boat was worth about $2,500, and would hold probably 17,000 bushels of coal, which at seven cents per bushel (cost) would amount to some $12,000, making boat and contents about $15,000. A barge will average in cost about $1,500, and will hold about $770 worth of coal, at seven cents, making boat and contents worth about $2,270. So it will be seen that it is not necessary to w ork over ten or twelve boats or barges to make quite a hole in a dealer's market money.

THE TWO WRECKS.

At midnight the wreck of the Oil Valley was still in *statu quo* where she went down. The freight which had been thrown aboard her larboard chimney, which was secured firmly on the wharf and will likely hold her until the water recedes. The unfortunate Victor F. Wilson, which, up till then, was still plainly visible to the naked eye—at least a portion of her hurricane deck—had entirely disappeared at midnight. The hull, with the boilers and engine, are probably still lying where the boat went down, and all that will be recovered of her will not do the underwriters much good. The Wilson was valued at $10,500, and is insured in the Bureau for $5,500, and in the Citizens' for a like amount. The Oil Valley was valued at $7,500, and is insured for $5,000, being divided between the Pittsburgh and People's insurance companies, and has $5,000 in Wheeling and Cleveland. The Coal Cop, which was slightly injured, is fully insured.

THE LOSERS.

From all accounts the heaviest loser by the sudden flood of water will be Mr. Joseph Walton. He lost a large number of rafts from his landing at Elizabeth, in addition to his coal losses. Mr. Cable will probably come in second best. The losses mentioned, Messrs. Brown & Son, who have suffered heavily by disasters to their tows early in the season, have been very light as far as heard from have not lost anything. This is somewhat odd, when it is considered that they have probably more coal afloat just now than any other dealers. At their landing on the south side of the Monongahela, above Saw Mill Run, the coal fleet have no less than thirty-seven boats and barges moored, added with coal and coke, none of which have yet suffered any damage, although the head of the fleet was struck by the steamer Bowling Green. The colliding boats, drift, &c., was turned off by the fleet and pursued its course almost direct to the head of Brunot's island, carrying a large number of boats, barges, tipples, landings, rafts, &c., are accumulated in an indescribable confusion. Two Jackson coal barges are lying in the Ohio just opposite the mouth of Saw Mill run. Another sunken barge lies out opposite the Point. Many tipples are on the water all the way from the Run to Brunots's snow the presence of steamer craft. If the weather does not scatter and carry off the "cranes" just placed in position, the Councils, Congress or some other body will be petitioned to make some preparations for a wholesale job of dredging.

THREE A. M. TO-DAY.

This hour develops nothing new at the river. The stream continues to rise slowly, but no further damage is anticipated.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

Large Diameters and High Pressure—Danger of Feeding a Battery from a Common Pipe—Important Suggestions.

The following communication has been received by one of our prominent manufacturing firms, from an engineer of large reputation in New York city, whose opinions command respect among practical men:

I have just read, with feelings of sincere sorrow, the account that appears in our newspapers of the terrific boiler explosion that occurred on the 3d inst., in the s s de Bergerac, at Longhlinge in your city. Attended, as the calamity is, by such a severe loss of life and property, I can appreciate its effects upon the community at large as well as those who are the immediate sufferers. The well known character of the proprietors of the works, for enterprise and liberality, will, I have no doubt, prevent the assumption that the accident is in no way attributable to the system of construction of furnaces and their part that prudence would suggest or expense secure.

In the absence of more specific information, I am unable to form any opinion as to the source of the difficulty in these cases. But I cannot but consider that attention should be called to the danger to which steam boilers are exposed by the use of steam; I beg at this time to be remind you of the opinions I have expressed to you after visiting your mills in regard to the prevailing practice of furnishing steam in carrying higher pressures than prudence would warrant. The due boilers of large diameter, generally used in your mills (54 inches), and the common ignorance of the class to which these exploded boilers belonged, I consider, the main causes to which end in use, for the reason that the water contained in them fluctuates at a level that reaches but a few inches above the crown of the flue sheet—which, if once exposed to the action of flames, soon unscrewed from the shell, becomes overheated and must of necessity collapse, even under a moderate pressure. The system of feeding water simultaneously to a battery of boilers out of a common pipe, which prevails in your city, is one attended with great danger for the reason, that if one obstacle is laid from the boilers by pipes that are too small, or that are so connected that under any condition the tendency is to create even a slight difference in pressure between one boiler and another in the battery, the higher pressure will force the water from the weaker boiler in which it exists through the common feed pipe into the other boiler, in which the pressure is lower, and thus, before taking but a quarter of a pound to the square inch will cause a difference of six inches in the water gauges enough, in ordinary cases, to expose the top of the flue to the danger of becoming heated, and the boiler to almost certain explosion. The best way to avoid this is by the exercise of good judgment in the arrangement of the connecting steam pipes; but, besides all, by making the pipes so large, much larger than they are commonly made, and thus by conveying the steam at such a low velocity, the ratio of varying water levels in the same nest of boilers may be avoided.

Still I have noticed that the pressure of steam generally carried in the boilers in your mills is greater than the strength of the boilers, and which, I think, would seem to warrant. It is true that the best boiler iron in the world is made in Pittsburgh, and I know your boilers are made from your best iron, and I have no doubt its average is better than that used by us; still, even this will not warrant the excess of pressure that applies in your establishments. Besides, it must be borne in mind that the fuel of steam boilers, especially when coal is used as a fuel, is continually undergoing a carbonizing and crystallizing influence, under which its strength sensibly depreciates.

I would earnestly recommend a lower rate of the steam pressure than ample, and, in order to secure a greater margin of safety against boiler explosions; and if it is contended that to make this practice general would involve alterations the expense of which even prudence would not warrant, I would offer the further suggestion that a higher race of piston speed in your engines, which may be had safely for a trivial outlay, would produce the same results with a lower pressure of steam.

If this system is not satisfactory for obvious reasons—that very little will ever be learned from the investigation of disasters that will be of practical value in providing against their occurrence. Engineers will seldom give evidence of a nature to implicate themselves in establishing rules, but it will explain the principle of the preference.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Even.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1867	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¾	114¾
New 5s	113¾	113¾
Gold	114¾	114¾
Currency 6s	116¾	116¾

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	114¾
United States 6s of 1881	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1862	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	115¾
United States 10-40s	114
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	114¾
Currency Pacifics	114¾

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

February 19, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
Gold	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
Canton	55½	55½	55½	55½	55½
Western Union Tel	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾	99
Quicksilver	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾
Pacific Mail	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾
Adams Express	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Wells, Fargo Express	49	49	49	49	49
American Express	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾
United States Express	48	48	48	48	48
New York Central	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾	103¾
Erie	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	65¼
Michigan Central	108¾	108¾	108	108	108
Michigan Southern	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾
Illinois Central	118	118	118	118	118
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	94	94	94	94	94
Chicago and Northwest	81	81	81	81	81
Do. preferred	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Rock Island	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
St. Paul	32	32	32	32	32
Do. preferred	59	59	59	59	59
Fort Wayne					
Ohio and Mississippi	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½
Union Pacific	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Chicago and Alton					
Do. preferred					
Terre Haute	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Harlem					
New Jersey Central	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾
C. C. & I. C.					
Cumberland & St. Louis	45¾	45¾	47	47	47
Mariposa					
Mariposa preferred					
Atlantic Mail					

*Ex dividend.

—Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn'a Central	69½ Phila. and Erie	27
Reading	97¼ Lehigh Navigation	28
United Co.'s of N.J.	129 Pittsburgh 5s	72
Cata. & A. R. R.	33¾ Do. 7s	101
Lehigh Valley R. R.	60¾ Central Transport'n	48¾

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

February 15.—There is no improvement in the market. Dealers are anxious to sell, but buyers are scarce. A cash customer at the present time could purchase on very liberal terms. Prices continue weak, but with no further quotable decline. At the sale in London on the 11th inst., the attendance was large, but the prices brought show a decline of ½d@ 1d., the former on unwashed, and the latter on Port Phillip and Sydney. The sales there reported for sales Monievideo at 28½@40c; 220 do. Cape, 36@42c; 3,000 lbs fall California, 56@c; 15,000 lbs XX Ohio, 66c; 6,000 lbs unwashed Wisconsin, 45@46c; 1,000 lbs unwashed 61c; 2,000 lbs washed 63c; 10,000 lbs combing, 57c; 150 bales unwashed Kentucky; and 27,000 lbs Montevideo, 44 bales Sanwich Island on private terms. By auction of damaged 125 bales Cape sold at 28@31c, and 25 do. sheep skins 25c, cash.—*Commercial List.*

PHILADELPHIA.

February 15.—Prices favor buyers and there is very little movement. Small sales are reported. The quotations are as follows; Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia XX and extra, 66@c; X, 64@66c; medium (¾ to ⅚ blood), 65c; coarse (⅝ blood), 66c; common 60c; Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and other Western States, X to XX, 60@63c; medium, 64@65c; coarse, 63c; common 60c; choice tub, 70@75c; fair to inferior, 65@67c; fine unwashed, 45@50c; medium unwashed, 48@50c; coarse and burry unwashed, 42@45c; combing unwashed, 57@60c; washed combing, 78@80c; Philadelphia No 1 and super pulled, 56@60c; Philadelphia merino pulled, 56@58c; western super pulled 58@62½c; western merino pulled, 52@55c.—*North American.*

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, N. Y., February 19.—Cattle—Receipts to-day 544 head; total for the week 5,423 head; market opened strong, but towards noon showed a tendency to weaken; one choice drove had an offer of 5c, which was refused; about 1,100 head disposed of at 4½@4¾c; washed combing, 78@80c; Philadelphia No 1 and super pulled, 56@60c; Philadelphia merino pulled, 56@58c; western super pulled 58@62½c; western merino pulled, 52@55c.—*North American.*

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 19, 1873.

The local money market continues active, with all demands from legitimate trade promptly met by the banks, when the paper is made short enough to command its payment if necessary at an early day.

In the East the pressure is severe from two prominent causes; several leading railroads are in the market as borrowers for temporary loans, offering high rates on their notes with with their own shares as collateral, and a powerful "bear clique" are locking up money for the purpose of depressing stocks.

—The syndicate have issued a partial list of National bank subscriptions to the new 5 per cent. loan, which foots up $17,773,500. This list does not include the bonds taken by private parties and savings banks, or those sold in Europe.

The actual relations of the syndicate to the Treasury Department and the condition of the government bond market are creating considerable discussion.

The contract between the government and the syndicate is that the syndicate agree to take $360,000,000 of the new bonds, bearing interest at 5 per cent., for which they are to pay gold or its equivalent—6 per cent. bonds of the government. They have until the first day of December next to complete their purchase, and as a special inducement they receive double interest for ninety days, being the interim between the order for an installment of new bonds and the presentation of old bonds for redemption by actual delivery of the former. Thus the increased interest for ninety days amounts to 1½ per cent., and the remainder of the appropriation of ½ of 1 per cent. for expenses of negotiation of the loan, after paying for preparation of the bonds, is turned over to the syndicate as commission. As the new bonds are sold a like amount of 6-20s are to be called in, the syndicate notifying the Secretary of the amount of sales. When the call was made last week the syndicate deposited their check or certificate that the $100,000,000 in gold had been deposited to the credit of the United States. This was duly signed and handed in to the Secretary, and was the largest check ever received by the government or seen by any one who had the privilege of seeing it. It will be remembered that in a few hours after issuing the call for $100,000,000 of 6-20s the Secretary revoked it on account of the disorganization between the terms of American and European subscriptions. The check is practically a figure head, to represent value whether it exists or not. There may not be a dollar of gold held by the depository mentioned in the check, but the check itself binds all parties to the contract to its redemption at the end of 90 days, and their redeem it by substituting 5-20 bonds for the gold they promise to pay. It was not long after the subscription books were opened that *short sales* of the new bonds began and continued to an extent that disclosed a powerful combination in opposition to the loan. The German bankers being foremost in the movement are being displeased because they were left out in the cold to make room for the Rothschilds, as some well known American houses were also displeased and went short, the result was a drop in the price of new 5's.

London advices places the total subscriptions received by the syndicate at about $20,000,000. The opponents of the measure, although pleased,are scared at the idea of a possible "corner" in new 5s, when they would be unable to fill their contracts. Their "short" sales were immense, and the only small amount had been subscribed it would be a comparatively easy matter for a counter combination to buy largely,corner the "bears" and "squeeze" them. Still that was a risk they had calculated as a possibility, but the game they undertook was desperate and they had to endure the risk of getting their fingers burned. Such are some of the inside workings of the syndicate which we have learned from a leading Wall street house. Of the final success of the loan there can be no doubt, but would be silly to believe that after the world's transactions of a national character within the past year, we cannot place $300,000,000 in our bonds at 5 per cent. It could be done even in face of the opposition just experienced. But there is good reason to believe that all contentions will soon be reconciled, that a bold, manly request for a call of $100,000,000 will be made by the syndicate on the last day of the present month, that those bankers who were opponents during the last subscription will join in the friendly working of the machinery for a common object, that the loan will be placed with a grand flourish, and the new fives mount above par.

—An old subscriber asks, in all genuineness, "What is preferred stock?" We answer that it is stock upon which a certain dividend must be declared before any dividend is paid upon the common stock. This certain subscribers put in a million of dollars to build a railroad. It proves not to be nearly enough, the money is spent, and the stream is apparently about to run dry. In order to secure a greater margin of safety against boiler explosions; and if it is contended that to make this practice general would involve alterations the expense of which even prudence would not warrant, I would offer the further suggestion that a higher race of piston speed in your engines, which may be had safely for a trivial outlay, would produce the same results with a lower pressure of steam.

If this system is not satisfactory for obvious reasons—that very little will ever be learned from the investigation of disasters that will be of practical Value in providing against their occurrence. Engineers will seldom give evidence of a nature to implicate themselves in establishing rules, but it will explain the principle of the preference.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Even.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1867	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¾	114¾
New 5s	113¾	113¾
Gold	114¾	114¾
Currency 6s	116¾	116¾

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	114¾
United States 6s of 1881	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1862	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	115¾
United States 10-40s	114
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	114¾
Currency Pacifics	114¾

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

February 19, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
Gold	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
Canton	55½	55½	55½	55½	55½
Western Union Tel	98¾	98¾	98¾	98¾	99
Quicksilver	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾
Pacific Mail	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾
Adams Express	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Wells, Fargo Express	49	49	49	49	49
American Express	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾	48¾
United States Express	48	48	48	48	48
New York Central	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾	103¾
Erie	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	65¼
Michigan Central	108¾	108¾	108	108	108
Michigan Southern	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾
Illinois Central	118	118	118	118	118
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	94	94	94	94	94
Chicago and Northwest	81	81	81	81	81
Do. preferred	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Rock Island	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
St. Paul	32	32	32	32	32
Do. preferred	59	59	59	59	59
Fort Wayne					
Ohio and Mississippi	45½	45½	45½	45½	45½
Union Pacific	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Chicago and Alton					
Do. preferred					
Terre Haute	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Harlem					
New Jersey Central	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾
C. C. & I. C.					
Cumberland & St. Louis	45¾	45¾	47	47	47
Mariposa					
Mariposa preferred					
Atlantic Mail					

*Ex dividend.

SEE in another column, advertisement about Iowa and Nebraska Lands.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, February 19, 1873.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle, No. head.	Hogs, No. head.	Sheep, No. head.	Hor's, No. head.	Mules, No. head.
Thursday, Feb. 13	1,360	5,600	3,000	300	85
Friday, Feb. 14	980	1,200	600	180	12
Saturday, Feb. 15	980	1,700	1,000	160	17
Monday, Feb. 17	1,820	1,000	400	120	...
Monday, Feb. 18	1,140	2,000	1,200	40	84
Tuesday, Feb. 18	800	1,200	3,000	70	...
Wednesday, Feb. 19	440	1,000	2,000	150	...
Total	6,160	12,100	13,800	918	198
Last week	6,060	19,200	10,600	795	273

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle, No. head.	Hogs, No. head.	Sheep, No. head.	Hor's, No. head.	Mules, No. head.
Flour, bbls	7,092	11,640		13,732	
Apples, barrels	1,664	537		2,201	
Cheese, packages	271	701		981	
Corn, sacks	3,683	6,737		9,810	
Wheat, sacks	1,117	1,619		2,790	
Barley, sacks	3,260	3,188		6,448	
Rye, sacks	960	1,460		2,449	
Oats, sacks	15,107	9,076		21,183	
Butter, packages	236	410		646	
Bacon, pieces	2,500	11,429		19,943	
Bacon, tierces	222	552		774	
Last week	5,540	18,808	2,400	765	255

Below will be found the rulings of the market, the rates quoted being accurate, unless special mention is made to the contrary:

ASHES—A fair trade demand is reported at the following figures: Sales Soda ash, common, favorite brands for window glass makers' use, 4½@4¾c; refined, for flint glass makers' use, 5½@6c; pots, 9¼ @9½c; pearls, 11c; arsenic, 2½@3½c; nitrate soda, 4½@5c; black lead, 6c.

ALE—X, $9 per bbl; XX, $10; porter, $10; India ale, $12. The export demand fair.

APPLE BUTTER—The market is quiet and unchanged in prices at 50@55c per gallon.

APPLES—Prices unchanged; $1 50@2 50 per bbl. Receipts 21 bbls.

BACON—Provisions—The market is reported fairly active, and as the meats offered for sale are of the very choicest quality the demand still continues increase. We quote the following as the figures at which actual sales are made: Sugar-cured hams 13c; sugar-cured shoulders 8c; plain shoulders 6½c; rib sides 8c; clear sides 9c; breakfast bacon 11c; extra clear pork 14c; clear pork 16c; sugar sausage 16c; leaf lard, in tierces, 9c; half bbls 9½c; buckets 10½c; pigs feet, in kegs, $2 50; half bbls $4 00. Sausage, 10c.

BEANS—The demand for prime white navy is active with sales at $2 50@2 75 ₱ bushel.

BEER—Sales at $4 50@5 ₱ bbl.

BAKING POWDER—There is a continued fair demand, with sales as follows: Banner Baking Powder, 1 lb cans, ₱ dozen at $6 00; ½ lb cans $3 25; ¼ lb cans $1 75.

BROOM CORN—Sales at 4½@6c, as to quality and condition.

CHEESE—Receipts 200 boxes. There is a fair trade demand at present, with the prospects bright for a heavy spring business in this line. We quote: New York cream, 15½c; Dairy Factory, 14½c; Factory, Swiss Swetzer 14½@c.

CRANBERRIES—Scarcely and Carey's berries, $14 @15 ₱ bbl; cultivated and common $7@11@13.

CRACKER—Calcined plaster $4 25@4 50 per bbl; Cumberland, $4 50@4 75; Rosendale $4 00@4 25; Lorain $3 50@3 75; Rosendale $4 00@4 25.

CARBON OIL—The market is about as low as it can well go; sales by car load 20c, being made at 19½@19¾c with the usual advance from stores.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Demand active at $8 00 ₱ case.

DRIED FRUITS—Sales of peaches, halves, 7½@9c; choice apples, 6c; Evaporated, 8c.

DRESSED HOGS—Demand light; sales at 5 5@5½c ₱ lb.

EGGS—As predicted prices are coming down, and we now quote strictly fresh for strictly fresh 24 doz. A few more warm days will place eggs within the reach of all.

FEATHERS—The receipts for the past forty-eight hours were 3,431 barrels, being larger than they have been for the same time for years. Dealers are now well supplied and the demand only moderate. Prices were impressed, and we only a small amount had been subscribed it would be a comparatively easy matter for a counter combination to buy largely,corner the "bears" and "squeeze" them. Still that was a risk they had calculated as a possibility, but the game they undertook was desperate and they had to endure the risk of getting their f

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1873.

WE publish elsewhere a statement from the New York *Star*, a Democratic journal, bearing on one part of Vice President COLFAX's defense, to which we invite the attention of our readers.

IN ANSWER to innumerable inquiries from business circles as to the exact operation of that portion of the act of June 6, 1872, which repealed all taxes imposed by stamps, except on bank checks, drafts or orders, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue responds that no stamp *tax* is now required upon checks, drafts, or orders, except such as shall be drawn at sight, or on demand upon a bank, banker or trust company.

THE PORK packing of the West this season will reach 300,000 head of hogs in excess of last year, whilst the average weight per head will be five pounds heavier. This will give about 85,000,000 pounds as the entire product of the West only, of meat and lard combined, and this added to a probable increase in the East, will insure an ample supply the present year, both for home consumption and export abroad, and a moderate scale of prices.

THE world moves. Europe has now five republics. The three leading ones are Switzerland, France and Spain. Then, there is San Marino, in Italy, a little republic of less than 10,000 inhabitants, and yet one of the most ancient States in the world. The fifth is Andorra, on the southern slope of the Pyrenees of even a smaller population, but dating its existence from the early centuries of the Christian era. And now Portugal gives signs of presently swinging into line. "Forward" is the command of the Universe.

THE recent accident on the Allegheny Valley Railroad has called forth general condemnation of the practice of mixing passenger coaches with oil cars. In case of accident to a passenger train, the passengers have to run the risk of being burnt to death without the aid of petroleum; but when a train of oil cars is attached, and a smash-up occurs, the risk is fearfully increased. Some of the newspapers are demanding legislation to prohibit the mixing of oil and passenger cars, but the companies should not need a law to enforce so plain a duty.

THERE is a bill before the Illinois Legislature prescribing the rights and responsibilities of married women. It provides that a married woman may engage in any kind of business on her own account, and that the husband shall not be held responsible for any debts contracted by her, but that her individual estate, real and personal, alone shall be subject to execution and sale for her debts. She can also sue and be sued, like any other person, a privilege which, it is to be presumed, includes the right of action and defense against her liege lord. There will probably be some comical proceedings under the measure, should it become a law.

A CONFLICT of some interest to the general public is being waged in Illinois, between the people and the railroad authorities. At a recent session of the Legislature of that State, a law was passed prohibiting railway companies from charging more than three cents per mile for transporting passengers. The Illinois Central ignored this statute, and continued to enforce the old schedule of prices. A number of persons along the line of the road recently tendered the legal fare, refusing to pay the rates charged by the company, and as a result they were carried to their destination free of charge. The practice is becoming so general that the officers of the road are powerless to overcome it, and it is likely that the law of the State will be enforced.

ELEVEN members of the North Carolina Legislature have had spread upon the record of that body a protest against the payment of "blood-money," as in the case of BOSS STRONG, one of the notorious LOWRY gang. They state that they are utterly opposed to it as a backward step in civilization, as furnishing an incentive to at least moral murder, and as offering immunity to officers of the law for the neglect of their duty. The governmental machinery, they argue, is adequate, if vigorously enforced, to arrest all offenders against the peace and order of the State, and when a reward is paid for the hunting down and shooting in cold blood of a criminal, however great his offense, it tends to encourage in the human breast a feeling hostile to the principles of the Christian religion, and destructive of all moral advancement.

THE Indiana Legislature has passed a resolution instructing one of its committees to examine into the disease commonly known as "milk sickness," and the possibility of eradicating the same, and to report a bill providing for the payment by the State of a suitable reward to the person who shall discover the cause, and a remedy for it. All efforts made thus far to ascertain from what cause the fatal effects of the disease proceed have proved fruitless. No botanist or chemist has been able to detect in the plants, soil or water of the grazing lands of the affected districts anything likely to produce the marked symptoms of the disease, and no *post mortem* examination has revealed the presence of an appreciable poison on the subject. The disease has made its appearance at various times in certain localities in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The subject is worthy the attention of scientists everywhere.

THE project of erecting special prisons for females, to be wholly under charge of women, is attracting favorable consideration in other States besides our own. The Legislature of Massachusetts seems inclined to adopt it. It is claimed that the plan will offer a better opportunity for the reformation of female criminals, and public sentiment is becoming more in favor of making reformation the chief end of criminal legislation and treatment. It is believed, from the admirable success that has attended the experiment elsewhere, that the reformation of criminals is a cheaper process than the punishment of them; and, as economy is now the cardinal test of all measures involving expenditure, the people of Massachusetts will probably reorganise their prisons on this basis. The Legislature has appointed a prison commission to investigate and report on the subject of the treatment of female offenders, and its report is expected to throw instructive light on the whole subject of penal discipline.

SOMETIME AGO we made brief mention of the gratifying progress which the art of silk manufacture was making in the United States. Late statistics concerning this important industry show that there is now about $30,000,000 capital invested in this country, against less than $3,000,000 before the war. Last year nearly forty million dollars worth of silk goods were woven in this country. We still have to send our raw silk to Europe, China or Japan to be reeled, but it is hoped this disadvantage will soon be overcome. Besides this, the matter of improving the supply of cocoons is one of great importance, and this the Silk Association of the United States purposes to accomplish. This influential organization has just issued a circular setting forth its aims and objects. It does not propose to interfere with the prices of silk between the importer and throwster, or between the throwster and manufacturer; but it intends to foster the silk industry by watching its interests in Congress, and to procure proper tariff legislation. The growth and prosperity of the silk trade during the past ten years is a matter of great satisfaction to all concerned; but if things had been allowed to take care of themselves—if individuals had not done what this association proposes to do, and what it can do better than individuals can—the result would have been far less satisfactory than at present. It is hoped that all who are interested in the silk trade will strengthen the association by increasing its membership.

A COLLEGE FOR NURSES is among the most recent suggestions in the city of New York. The ladies composing the State Charities Aid Society of that city, in visiting the Bellevue Hospital, found that the abuses resulting from the employment of ignorant and inexperienced nurses were so general, that nothing could be done in the way of reform without the character of the nurses was changed. Good nursing is as essential to the recovery of the sick as proper medical attendance; and in hospitals, hotels, boarding houses, and other public places, many patients die for want of skillful nursing. Prisoners and paupers from Blackwell's Island are distributed through the wards of Bellevue Hospital as nurses! This tells the whole story, and it is not surprising that the ladies of the Aid Society should despair of effecting a reform short of a radical revolution. The rude, the ignorant, the degraded, the awkward and the ill-tempered, are not the persons to have charge of a sick room. The individual having such qualities ought to be shunned as a tormentor, rather than sought out as a "ministering angel." Thoroughly trained nurses are very few in number, and always command employment at good wages. Hence the society of ladies named above are making efforts to establish a College for Nurses, or school where they can be trained in all the details of waiting upon the sick and wounded. Such schools exist in England and France, and there is a necessity for them in every large city in the United States, Pittsburgh not excepted.

SCHUYLER COLFAX.

The closing testimony in the Credit Mobilier case is, to our minds, a complete vindication of SCHUYLER COLFAX from the charge which Mr. AMES brought, or seems to bring, against him; and many hearts will be made glad with the consciousness that the reproaches so freely heaped on his head are undeserved.

It will be remembered that Mr. AMES, in his original testimony, said that he drew a check in favor of "S. C." or bearer for $1,200, as payment in part of dividends on Credit Mobilier stock bought by COLFAX; and without saying, positively and directly, that this money was paid to COLFAX, he merely testified that the check was deposited with the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, leaving it to be inferred that COLFAX drew it; and then brought in Mr. COLFAX's bank account to show that, two days after this check was drawn, COLFAX deposited $1,200 in bank notes. The coincidence was remarkable, and, to suspicious minds, conclusive; and Mr. AMES was content to leave the matter in this suspicious but unsettled state.

Mr. COLFAX denies, positively, the receipt of this $1,200; the Sergeant-at-Arms knew that the check was paid, but did not know to whom; and so the public was left to decide between the suspicion begotten of the coincidence we have referred to, and the denial of Mr. COLFAX. Those who believe that every public man is corrupt, naturally sided with AMES in regarding Mr. COLFAX as guilty of perjury; whilst those who have still some faith left in human nature, as naturally believed that the coincidence was only apparent, and that Mr. COLFAX would not commit perjury in self-vindication.

The testimony taken on the last day of this prolonged investigation shows that Mr. AMES has nothing new to corroborate his intimation that this $1,200 was paid to COLFAX. His memorandum book does not confirm it; he has no receipt for the money as he had from Senator PATTERSON and others, and he has nothing to base his suspicion on except that the check was made payable to "S. C." or bearer. On the contrary, here comes Mr. DILLON, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, who is firm in the conviction that he paid this $1,200, not to COLFAX, but to AMES himself; that he paid him therefore two $500 and two $100 notes; and that AMES, on being confronted with DILLON, admitted that this was probably the case. So far, Mr. AMES fails to make out his case, and Mr. COLFAX might be declared innocent, if there were no further evidence.

But there is other and better evidence. Two witnesses, unimpeached and unimpeachable, show that on June 16, 1868, six days before Mr. COLFAX deposited the $1,200, the sum of $200 was paid him by his step-father, as borrowed money, and $1,000 was sent him about the same time by a Mr. NESBITT, a personal friend to aid him in the expenses of his canvass as a candidate for Vice President. The evidence of this is clear and conclusive, and accounts for the $1,200 independently of OAKES AMES. It is clear to our mind that the $1,200 deposited by COLFAX on June 22, 1868, was obtained from other and independent sources, and not from AMES; and that the coincidence between AMES's check payable to "S. C." or bearer, for $1,200, drawn June 20, 1868, and the deposit of $1,200 made by COLFAX, on June 22, 1868, is only in seeming, and has no real connection. COLFAX has shown unmistakably that he got $1,200 from other sources, and the Deputy-Sargeant-at-Arms has shown that he paid the $1,200 check not to COLFAX but to AMES in person.

And so that scandal dissipates. The only question at issue was one of veracity between AMES and COLFAX. AMES alleged that he paid the $1,200 to COLFAX, and COLFAX denied it. There was no question of the fact that COLFAX had originally agreed to take some Credit Mobilier stock, and had paid $600 on account, but AMES alleged that he paid $1,200 to him on account of dividends, while COLFAX not only denied the receipt of this sum but insisted that he refused the stock, and had received nothing on dividends. It was a simple question of veracity between the two, and it has been settled, happily, in favor of COLFAX.

Those Republican newspapers which have gloated over the suspicion cast by AMES on the Vice President, and have moralized over his alleged downfall, must feel very mean in view of this complete and thorough vindication. It is another illustration of the fact that it is best not to condemn public men on half testimony. Mr. COLFAX was entitled to the benefit of the doubt, and they refused it. Now, he is acquitted and they are convicted of condemning a man unheard and on one-sided testimony.

And those Democratic newspapers which improve the occasion to moralize over the fall of a Christian statesman and advocate of temperance, would have done well to have waited until they were sure they were right before going ahead. There was such a manifest willingness to gloat over his fall because he was a Christian statesman, and to turn the event into a reproach upon the religion of his Divine Master, that we fancy they are sorrier for their failure to prove his supposed guilt, than they can possibly be glad for the escape of the Christian religion from such a reproach. It did their souls good to believe that a Christian statesman had fallen from his high estate, and their chagrin at his vindication must be correspondingly great.

For our part, we are glad, not only on Mr. COLFAX's account, but on account of the religion which was sneered at through him, that he has made his record clean and clear. Millions of men had shown their faith in that man, and he has not proved unworthy of it. The whole result, in preventing unjust hasty judgments based on partial evidence. Now that the entire case has been heard, it is plainly seen how easy it is to condemn, unheard, and how hard it is be just, even where the evidence is complete and overwhelming.

THE GROWTH OF THE CITY.

Few persons, at this late day, question the soundness of consolidation with the city that large and wealthy territory now commonly designated "the rural district." Those who, at the time consolidation was effected, objected on the ground that it was too soon to incorporate so large an area of territory, are now forced to admit that consolidation did not come an hour too soon. Indeed, an old and wealthy resident of the Twentieth ward, speaking on this subject yesterday, remarked that it would have been a great blessing if the East Liberty district had been annexed to the city twenty years ago. Had this been done, that now populous district would have been regularly and beautifully laid out in streets and avenues, instead of being cut up into irregular plots and plans, to suit the whims or tastes of the owners. The narrow, winding streets, laid out without regard to system, would have presented a very different appearance to-day, had consolidation been effected before the vacant lands were cut up and improved. The man would have been pronounced a dreamer, who, twenty years ago, would have predicted that Pittsburgh would, in so short a time, have grown so as to occupy that beautiful valley of farming lands. The progress of the past few years, however, has forced the most skeptical on this point to acknowledge that Pittsburgh is destined to become a great and populous city, and that consolidation was a wise and judicious step. It was a lack of faith in our destiny that led to the incorporation of so many small municipalities around Pittsburgh; and it was only when these suburbs grew large that the people waked up to the importance of consolidation. Our purpose at present, however, is not to justify the enlargement of our corporate limits—a measure so universally admitted to be beneficial as well as necessary—but to direct attention to the growth of the city in new buildings, as shown by the recent annual statement of Mr. R. M. REED, the Building Inspector.

The total number of new buildings erected in 1872 was seven hundred and sixty, and the aggregate cost was $1,964,925. Of these, only two hundred and twenty-nine were erected in the old city, or that part now represented by the first twelve wards; while five hundred and thirty-one were erected in the new districts, embracing the Thirteenth and Twenty-third wards, inclusive. The South Side wards, recently consolidated, are not embraced in the report.

The districts consolidated in 1867, included Lawrenceville, now the Fifteenth and Seventeenth wards; Pitt township, now the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth wards; Collins township, now the Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-first wards, and Peebles township, now the Twentieth, Twenty-second and Twenty-third wards. The following will show the building improvements in these several sub-divisions:

	New buildings.	Cost.
Lawrenceville district	118	$254,350
Pitt township district	126	228,175
Collins township district	154	284,500
Peebles township district	94	216,400
	531	$1,053,425
Old city district	229	911,500
Total	760	$1,964,925

These figures show that the territory now designated as "rural" was not admitted too soon. The opening and paving of streets, the establishing of grades, the laying of gas and water mains, and other improvements, have stimulated building in the new wards, until the number of houses annually built exceeds double that erected in the old city limits. Nor is this growth in dwellings and population the only advantage gained. It is a matter of no small importance to have this immense sum added to the wealth of the city, and consequently to the taxable aggregate under the head of real estate; but it is small compared to the increased valuation in the lands. There are no data upon which to estimate the accumulated wealth from this source. It is well known, however, that in many sections of the consolidated districts, real estate has increased tenfold in value since consolidation. It is in these new wards that the city will hereafter find its most rapid growth, for the plain reason that in the older portions the unimproved lands are becoming scarcer every year, and will be mainly purchased as sites for business houses and manufacturing establishments.

In view of these facts, it is impossible to estimate the probable growth of the new wards. The figures above given present a very gratifying exhibit of the city's growth, both in wealth and population. Including Allegheny City, and the South Side, the number of new buildings erected last year will exceed twelve hundred, representing an increased population of at least eight thousand, and an aggregate expenditure of about $3,000,000 for buildings. At this rate, the next census will show a ratio of increase which will compare favorably with that of any inland city in the country.

SPAIN.

There is in the United States, as in Europe, a very general conviction that the revolution in Spain is a mere temporary outburst; that the Republic will not last; and that the Spanish, being a Latin race, are unfit for Republican government.

That this feeling should prevail in Europe, where even the most liberal minded men, and men of advanced ideas, have no faith in the capacity of the masses of the people, anywhere, for self-government, is not surprising; but that it should exist in this country, and should crop out even in Congress, where two attempts to introduce resolutions of sympathy with Spain have met with sturdy and successful obstruction, is matter for wonder and astonishment. The men who are now in power in Spain are the warm friends of the United States and admirers of our form of government; and if the new Republic had a right to look for a kind, helping and encouraging word from any quarter it was surely from here. England and Prussia might be excused for a doubting shake of the head; but not America.

That the Latin races are unfit for self-government and incapable of establishing Republican institutions is, with some people a theory; but it is by no means an accepted fact. We do not concede it nor believe it. The chronic state of disturbance in the South American republics is pointed to as evidence of the truth of this theory, and particular stress is laid on Mexico as a case in point; but these are not parallel cases to that of Spain, nor are they near as bad as represented. The South American States have been for years, and still mainly by adventurers and uncivilized natives; but, as republics, they have been as successful as Brazil governed by a monarch, and Mexico has struggled with all her difficulties until she has overcome them. During the lifetime of JUAREZ, a genuine leader and hero, every little outbreak against his rule was magnified and dwelt upon in this country, until the public mind was worried into believing that the government was a failure; yet he held on manfully, fought down and sustain Republican principles, and was just on the point of ultimate success when he died. Thanks to his persistence, courage, energy and faith in the institutions he defended, Mexico is now at peace and prospering. He is dead and other men have entered into his labors, but he saved his country from destruction and proved the capacity of his government to sustain itself.

Spain, however, is not to be measured by Mexico. Her people are more advanced and she has better men to the fore. With such leaders as CASTELAR and FIGUEROS, and the able men they have called around them, the success of the movement ought to be certain. No nation in Europe can boast a nobler set of statesmen than the Republicans of Spain have presented. During many years of doubt and uncertainty, they have bided their time quietly, instructing the people in devotion to republicanism, but keeping down the revolutionary spirit and teaching them to wait for their opportunity. That opportunity has now come, and, so far as we can see, they are equal to their task. The change from Monarchy to a Republic was made without a jar, and without bloodshed, and the machinery of government goes on as smoothly in their hands as it ever did in the hands of those who claim a divine right to rule. The people recognize the new authority with thankfulness and joy, and everything betokens a much more hearty concurrence in the acts of the new government than was accorded to KING AMADEUS or that of the profligate she devil who preceded him. It ought to succeed, and we have faith that it will.

It is pardonable, at least, to wish these men well, and to hope that a better day has dawned on that unhappy country. With France on one side of her tending surely and steadily, as we trust, to the firm establishment of the Republic, and without fear of an attack from other European governments, no one of which dare go to war with her, why should not Spain succeed in laying securely the foundations of free institutions? Why should not CASTELAR become the WASHINGTON of his country, and why, above all, should American Republicans look coldly at this new effort in the right direction and meet it with doubts and sneers? If such men as EPSARTERO can send his greetings to cheer these new champions of liberty, surely the Republic of ours, just rounding into the first hundred years of its prosperous existence, should be able to send a shout of welcome across the ocean, such as those with which we greeted KOSSUTH, and GARIBALDI, and the heroes of 1848. CASTELAR and FIGUEROS are to the full as worthy of sympathy as they; and if the new Spanish Republic succeeds, as GOD grant it may, we shall have reason, as a nation, to be ashamed to find that it has struggled into being without a kind or cheering word from those from whom it had the best right to expect it.

ABOUT a couple of years ago the physicians of Great Britain, to the number of several hundred, issued an address in which they declared total abstinence from alcoholic liquors to be conducive to the highest degree of physical and mental health and vigor; and at the late International Prison Congress in London, composed of men eminent for ability, philanthropy, and philosophic research, a resolution was passed attributing "three-fourths of the crime that shock and startle mankind to the baneful influences of strong drink." Now comes almost the entire medical fraternity of Montreal, bearing testimony to the correctness of both of these theories, and maintaining that abstinence from intoxicating liquors would greatly promote the health, morality and prosperity of the people. Utterances like these, from sources so competent and authoritative, cannot but arrest the attention of the reflective public; and inasmuch as the causes of the increase of crime are coming to be paramount questions in our social economy, our statesmen and Legislatures will themselves soon be compelled to dig at the roots of the matter. Men may storm against criminals and the juries that fail to convict them, until the crack of doom, to find at last that men cannot rise higher than their circumstances. And when drunkenness has decided those circumstances, making the crime possible, and then the punishment impossible through fellowship, society must wait hopelessly or assert itself. In view of its ultimate bearings on the welfare of the nation the subject may be said to be fully as vital as any public question of the time.

A Scotch Experiment in Co-operation.

Some of the canny Scotch people give us the following encouraging example in the way of co-operation in the city of Glasgow: A co-operative scheme was undertaken by the subscription of a capital stock of $50,000, divided into $50 shares. The business is managed by a committee of five, under the immediate direction of a manager; the members pay, each, $5, yearly membership 63 cents. Cash payment for goods is invariably exacted. Arrangements in addition have been made with twenty-two of the first firms in Glasgow, by virtue of which members of the association can buy of said firms at a reduction of five to twenty per cent. from regular prices. The merchants selling find their advantage in the increased custom and in the cash payments. "The General Supply Company"—that being the title of the association—finds itself at the end of each half year with a surplus of profits. Half of this surplus is divided out to the members. In eighteen months the dividends have amounted to fifteen per cent. upon the shares. The association, only a year and a half old, now numbers about 2,000 members, and the life member who purchases $1,000 worth of goods saves, and receives as dividends, $200. This is the actual experience so far.

A RESIDENT of Denison, Texas, writes as follows: "This is the liveliest town in these parts. Only six months old, it has been built up by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, which has its terminus here. The Houston and Texas Central will be along soon, and then there will be rail communication from St. Louis to Galveston. We have 5,000 inhabitants, and we have hotels, stores, churches, grog-shops, two parsonages, one gambling house, and a town hall. We have been wanting a graveyard. Yesterday a man died, and this afternoon everybody will turn out to inaugurate the new cemetery. We thought we should have to import a corpse to start it, but this fellow happened to die and saved us the expense. Another one is sick of a disease he brought from Missouri, and the doctor says we had better hold over the other chap a day or so, and make one job of it. Don't think we'll do it, though, as we want the graveyard started anyhow."

STATE NEWS.

A mare which had reached nearly thirty-eight years of age died in Indiana county a few days since. The animal was held in high estimation because of her service in building the western end of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

There is no excuse for ignorance in Luzerne county, there being one newspaper published for every 1,500 inhabitants.

According to the census of 1830 there were thirteen slaves in Bradford county, Pa. In 1790 there were 3,737 in the State; in 1800, 1,706; in 1810, 795; in 1820, 211; in 1830, 403; in 1840, 64.

The Hanover *Herald* says within the limits of that borough there are eleven cigar manufactories, and in Heidelberg township (surrounding the borough) there are six more. These seventeen manufactories employ one hundred and five cigar makers, twenty-five strippers and bunchers, and as large a force of box makers and packers as the trade requires to prepare the cigars for market. The amount of sales made during the year ending December 31, 1872, were 4,870,000 cigars. To pack these cigars require the manufacture of 48,700 boxes, which cost over $4,000. The amount of leaf tobacco purchased during the year was 124,000 pounds, at an average cost of thirty cents per pound, making a net amount of $87,200. The net expense of making cigars exceed the sum of $30,000, and the packing caused an additional expense of $4,000. The United States Government realized $24,350 paid in taxes by the manufacturers. The cigars were sold at various prices, ranging from fifteen to fifty dollars per thousand, but it is safe to estimate the sum total of all the sales at $99,000.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* of Saturday says: Within the past few days the experiment of rolling cast steel ingots into finished rails has been tried with great success at the rolling mills of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. The steel was made at the Midvale Steel Works, near Philadelphia, by a process similar to the Siemens Martin, and cast into ingots of sections about nine inches square, and furnished to the rolling mill to be heated and rolled into rails of the regular pattern, 68 lbs. per yard. The rolling was done on the rails ordinarily worked for iron rails. In this case only twelve passes or grooves were used from the ingot to the rail, which has generally been deemed too rapid a reduction for the steel, and very severe on the machinery, and both were equal to the test.

Robert McWade will personate "Rip Van Winkle" in Reading, to-morrow evening.

The new Ormsby Furnace at Sharpsville "blew in" last Wednesday.

Solomon S. Stouffer, a resident of Clearfield county, died suddenly in Lancaster on Friday. He was a single man, fifty years of age.

The Johnstown *Tribune* says: Mrs. Mary Bendon died in Gallitzen township, this county, on Thursday, aged 101 years. She deceased was probably the oldest resident of the county.

The Tyrone *Herald* is informed that a mineral has been discovered in that county which after being bathed in hot water, answers every purpose for which India rubber is used. It is equally as brilliant, and cuts glass as well.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis is very prevalent in the lower part of Carbon county.

A young but impecunious widow in Lancaster makes no secret of her feelings towards a rich bachelor who owns a large farm in the vicinity. She says she loves the property he walks on, and perfectly adores the house he lives in.

The Pottsville *Miners' Journal*, of Saturday, says: On Wednesday evening last, for some reason or other, a couple of men beat another named Billy Morris, at the foot of Mahanoy Plane. Morris ran home, got his gun, loaded it, and returned near the place where he had been beaten, entering Schneider's tavern, opposite the house where he had been maltreated. Here he fired a load of shot into the first person who came in. As luck would have it, that first person turned out to be his brother. Notwithstanding that fact, Morris was so good as to give chase, overtake and lodge a shot in his brother's face and neck. We cannot account for such conduct.

A circular, issued by the Reading Coal and Iron Company, announces that it will sell, during the season, of 1873, coals from the thirty-one collieries which it owns, and from seventy-six others for which it will act as factors. All sales will be made under nine different designations, and a rigid system of inspection will be inforced. The circular also says that the anthracite coal trade of the country will hereafter be controlled and prices established by those who actually represent the ownership of the coal itself, and that henceforth, in the matter of future profits, the prices for the succeeding one will be announced.

Joseph Freezer, aged seventy years, was frozen to death in Clarion county last week, while going from his house to the house of his son-in-law.

The city election in Reading on Friday resulted in the election by the Republicans of C. F. Evans, their candidate for Mayor, the Treasurer, Select Council, twelve Select Councilmen, and nineteen out of twenty-eight members of Common Council. The vote on local option showed about 1,000 majority in favor of license.

The Sharon *Times* states that there has not been a case of small-pox in that place for more than a year.

Philadelphia has, thus far, pledged $1,709,000 for the Centennial fund.

On the 9th inst. a child of Mr. Enoch Engle of Industry township, Beaver county, fell into a spring and was drowned.

A social gathering in Pottsville, one evening last week, there were present ten ladies who had earned the title of great-grandmother.

Edward Heine was found frozen to death at Mahanoy Plains, Schuylkill county, on last Sunday night.

The *Courier* states that work is going on vigorously at the Lebanon Manufacturing Company's works. The managers are showing great energy. They have been turning out cars rapidly in the open air, while masons, carpenters and others were busy on the buildings. Such energy deserves success.

The Reading *Eagle* says: "The Lancaster bank, recently robbed of a large amount of money, bonds and other securities, has handsomely rewarded Mr. Knabb, the sexton of the new St. Paul's Memorial church, of Reading, who found $129,000 of the stolen property in a church in the church, and had it restored to the bank, by the gift of two $5 notes. This remarkable instance of generosity is worthy of record, and we glad to give it a place. Mr. Knabb was not at home when this liberal reward was paid his wife, or he wishes it to be understood he would have declined accepting it. We honor the generous donor feels better after such a display of unparalleled munificence."

Thirteen dozen fried oysters furnish supper and a first class nightmare to a West Chester gourmand.

A mortgage of $4,000,000, executed by the Louisville and State Line Railroad Company, to the Fidelity Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of Philadelphia, has been left to be recorded in the office of the Recorder of Chester county.

Pottsville has a new daily, the *Evening Transcript*, of which Mr. W. P. Furey is the editer and publisher. It is worthy of support, giving much attention to local news, and furnishing a comprehensive summary of telegraphic intelligence.

A County Temperance Convention will be held in Mercer on the 25th inst.

Hon. Howell Powell died suddenly at his residence, in Spring township, Crawford county, on Tuesday, in his sixty-ninth year. Mr. Fowell was one of the persons chosen for electors-at-large on the Temperance ticket last fall. He was elected to the Legislature in 1854, and at the time of his death was a Director in the First National bank of Conneautville, and Vice President of the Crawford county Agricultural Society.

Mr. Samuel Shellito, the oldest man in Crawford county, and perhaps in this portion of the State, says the Conneautville *Courier*, died in North Shenango on the 4th, at the advanced age of *one hundred and two years*. Mr. Shellito was born in Ireland, and entered the British army when twenty-two years old, serving twelve years, and participating in numerous engagements to put down insurrections, but was never during the time off the island. He emigrated to America in 1811, and four years after settled in the township in which he died. He was married at the age of forty, and leaves behind him descendants to the third or fourth generation. He was a member of the Presbyterian church for eighty years, sustaining a good reputation. He had always enjoyed excellent health, retaining his reason to the last, and died without any apparent disease.

Waynesburg, too, comes to the front, with an appeal to local capitalists to furnish tenement houses for would-be citizens.

There has been an epidemic of burglary in Waynesburg, and at last the guilty parties have been caught, consisting of four boys, three white and one colored.

The Clarion Presbytery will meet in the Presbyterian church, Clarion, to-day.

A troupe of "German minstrels" are performing in the vicinity of Scranton.

The workmen on the lands of the Economite Society in the vicinity of Tidioute have had their wages reduced twenty-cents per day.

A law suit is on trial in court at Wilkesbarre, in which the matter in dispute is a strip of ground twenty-two inches wide at one end, tapering down to half an inch at the other, and one hundred and sixty feet long.

In the Griffin-Von Storch breach of promise case at Wilkesbarre, the jury gave the young lady $3,000 damages.

Mrs. Dietrich was found dead in her bed at Wilkesbarre on Friday morning. She retired in good health on the evening previous.

The Pottsville *Miners' Journal* states that 708 miners have been killed and 1,692 maimed in the anthracite coal region, since the inspection laws were in force, a period extending from 1869 to 1872.

The majority in favor of license in Forest county was but thirty.

John Hough, of Mount Wolf, York county, was found dead in bed in a Harrisburg hotel on Sunday morning. The Coroner held an inquest, the jury returning a verdict of death from the excessive use of intoxicating drink. Hough was a man of wealth, owning a number of fine farms in York county.

Some districts in Elk county voted almost unanimously in favor of granting license.

Joseph M. M'Clure, Esq., formerly assistant Attorney General of Pennsylvania, has assumed the editorial management of the *Mirror* and of the *Record of Reform* at Doylestown. The latter is published in the German language.

Mrs. Sarah Aetley, aged sixty-eight, dropped dead in the street at Chester a few days ago.

John Larkin, a shoemaker, died in Minersville, Schuylkill county, last week, from the effects of intoxication.

Mitchell & Plumer, proprietors of a Franklin hotel, have just made the unpleasant discovery that the man to whom they had entrusted the management of their house has embezzled some four or five thousand dollars of their money. Out of sympathy for the defaulter's wife the man was allowed to escape arrest, he having promised to call upon his rich relatives to make up the amount of his defalcations. The guilty man was formerly largely engaged in mercantile business in Franklin, and afterwards conducted a popular hotel in the same place.

The Titusville *Herald* of yesterday says: A lady in Hydetown, Mrs. Gilbert Murray, having left her little infant daughter sitting in a high chair, near a stove, while she left the room, was suddenly recalled by its screams. She found the poor little thing laying on the stove and burned in a terrible manner, some of the flesh adhering to the stove when it was removed. Its recoverery is doubtful.

A boy named James Bernard received injuries while coasting on Saturday evening, in Titusville, which caused his death the day following.

The people of Emlinton are of opinion a bank would add to their prosperity, and propose to organize one.

The Titusville *Herald* says: We had the pleasure on last Saturday evening of witnessing the nuptial ceremonies of Mr. Edward D. Kreutzer and Miss Jane E. Keppel, Mrs Jonathan Watson joining the pair in the holy bonds of Wedlock. The services were very interesting, being the first Spiritual marriage performed in this place by a lady. Mrs. Watson claims the right to perform marriage ceremonies by virtue of her being the accredited Spiritual minister of the society in this city. At about eight o'clock a small company had gathered in the parlor of a house in the rear of the laundry on Franklin street, The happy pair soon made their appearance. Mrs. Watson having previously passed into an abnormal state, immediately arose and delivered an invocation to the Deity. Recovering her consciousness, she requested the couple to join hands, and proceeded in the usual manner to make the twain one flesh, using the old formula. After congratulations from a large number of friends, equally as brilliant, and cuts glass as well.

OHIO NEWS.

Advices from Paulding county give favorable reports as to the wheat crop. The deep snows protected it from the cold, and it never looked better at this season of the year.

A dispute about the use of a small rear yard at Columbus, resulted in one of the disputants having his head frightfully cut by a hatchet, in the hands of the wife of his opponent.

On the 12th, Rev. James Wheeler, aged seventy-two, a superannuated minister of the M. E. Church, living in Delaware county, was thrown from a buggy by his horse scaring at a train at Bucyrus. He fell on his face, his nose was torn almost off, and he bled from the mouth. His head and cheek were deeply gashed, and his condition is precarious.

John T. Shryock, Esq., formerly of Pittsburgh, now publisher of the Zanesville *Advocate*, weekly, proposes to issue a daily edition every April soon.

Mrs. Swader, of Richland township, Marion county, recently fell into a ditch of slush and water, face downward, and being unable to rise, died of cold and strangulation.

A few days ago Mr. Milton Howlett skated from Sandusky to Kelley's Island in an hour and a half. He ran through the ice half a dozen times, but arrived all safe.

A woman of loose character, known as Emma Murphy, was found frozen to death in a car at Alliance, one day last week.

Mrs. Hummel, a handsome young woman, living at Norton, Delaware county, just across the Marion county line, got tired of her husband, a hard-working, industrious man, because of his pecuniary difficulties, and left him, walking to Waldo with her child in her arms. There she took the stage for Marion, from whence she departed on the evening train for parts unknown. He had considerable money. Her husband, after following her to Marion, was obliged to give up the pursuit. Wheresbe has gone no one knows. Her flight was evidently premeditated.

A young lady named Hinton, living near the township line between Montgomery township, Marion county, and Dudley township, Hardin county, died Monday morning from the effects of severe burning. On Sunday evening she was in company with a young gentleman to whom she was to be married in a very short time. Late in the evening, while sitting near a stove, a burning piece of wood fell into her lap and ignited her clothing. So rapid were the flames that her clothing was nearly burned from her person before they could be quenched. She lived only a few hours.

There has been a great revival among the churches in Galion. The work commenced in the M. E. church and afterward spread to other churches. There have been three hundred conversions, two hundred of whom have united with the M. E. church.

The Cleveland press is rather proud of one of the denizens of that city, a girl of eleven years, who is not only a remarkably adroit thief, but capable of spinning out the most artistically constructed lies, and sticking to them, too, no matter how hard pressed in cross-examination.

The Climate of Washington Territory.

The Olympa correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* writes:

If there is one thing above another that the people of Washington Territory pride themselves on, and about which they love to expatiate, it is the climate, and it does seem a matter of congratulation, as we sit in our room and read the accounts of extensive snow storms that have been raging in most parts of the United States, to think that, situated, as we are are, in the extreme northwest of our country, a little fire in the grate to counteract the dampness is all that is necessary to make it pleasant. While without a day has passed but a balmy breeze from the southwest, the grass and trees ever green, and many flowers in bloom, all combine to make one think they have indeed struck a sunny clime. But this is no index to winter here. It only requires eleven minutes by the watch for the scene to change, and then it may snow, but it won't last much longer than it is falling; it may freeze a little, but that would be a rarity; but most likely it will rain, for that is the principal change, and one to which it clings with dampening persistency at this season of the year. If we are allowed the expression, this Territory has a variegated climate. Extremes don't meet, they are only separated by the Cascade range of mountains. A few hours ride to the east, over the same, and all the rigidity of a Maine winter can be enjoyed, while on the west the more genial clime of Texas prevails here. If there is any truth in the theory that climate influences the character of a people, surely Washington Territory ought to have a superior race of natives, and to the manner born," seem to stand as living proof that the theory is entitled to considerable credence. East of the mountains they are tall, straight, and well built, and we might say of perfect physique, and endowed with a goodly quantity of *Cooperonian* nobleness. West, along the Sound, they are low of stature, big, broad heads and shoulders, small legs and pusillanimous "Poor Lo" countenances. They live on fish, which has a tendency to do away with the idea that fish diet is conducive to brain power. For if the face is any index to the mind, the Indians of Western Washington are certainly, in point of intelligence, not much above the clams they dig, or the oysters they gather.

A Beautiful Incident.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *World* writes: A very beautiful incident occurred here New Year's Day, and was so creditable to those "dreadful Americans" as to be worthy of circulation. A "rich American"—to the Parisians all Americans are rich—was promenading in the Boulevard des Capricines with his little four-year-old daughter. While they were looking into the shop windows, and particularly at the baraques—the small wooden shops set down on the sidewalks near the curb-stone during holiday week—a troupe of organ girls from one of the religious institutions was passing, in charge of two Sisters, and wearing a badge of blue ribbon. The little American was attracted to the poor girls, and asking her papa who they were was told that they were poor orphan girls to whom the New Year brought neither bonbons nor presents. "Then," she cried, "papa, it is necessary that we buy them some!" And following the child's suggestion the father exchanged a few words with the Sisters, and then began to distribute the presents, completely buying out three of the baraques. The child stood by looking on in perfect ecstasy, and so generous a purchase attracted the attention of the passers by, until an immense crowd had gathered to look upon the American method of doing Santa Claus. Blessed little child.

Insect Plagues.

A mighty devourer is mentioned by travelers in the arid regions in Africa, and especially where there are so many annoyances man can scarely keep a foothold. It is a tiny insect the size of a grain of barley, called *arda* (*termes fatale*), which bites its way through all opposition. They only forage at night. In an incredibly short time they construct galleries and corrode and destroy whatever is in their way. Besides being industrious, working in concert to demolish obstacles that would make a carpenter hesitate, they are excessively obstinate. If their operations are interrupted or their tunnels broken in, they make repairs that would astonish a railroad engineer. Nothing comes amiss to the arda. Saddles, bones, boots, overcoats, gunstocks, hats, and stockings disappear like dew in sunlight. Cast iron boxes, tin cannisters